- **Entertainment / A2-1**
  Real reason why Sandara is leaving for Korea
- **News / A2**
  Fired American insurance mogul stays as GMA adviser
- **Across / A18**
  Development of Hundred Islands turned over to Alaminos City gov't

- **Lifestyle / F2**
  Paradise is regained in Garden of Mary apparition site in Akita, Japan

JOB Market
Opportunity knocks but once

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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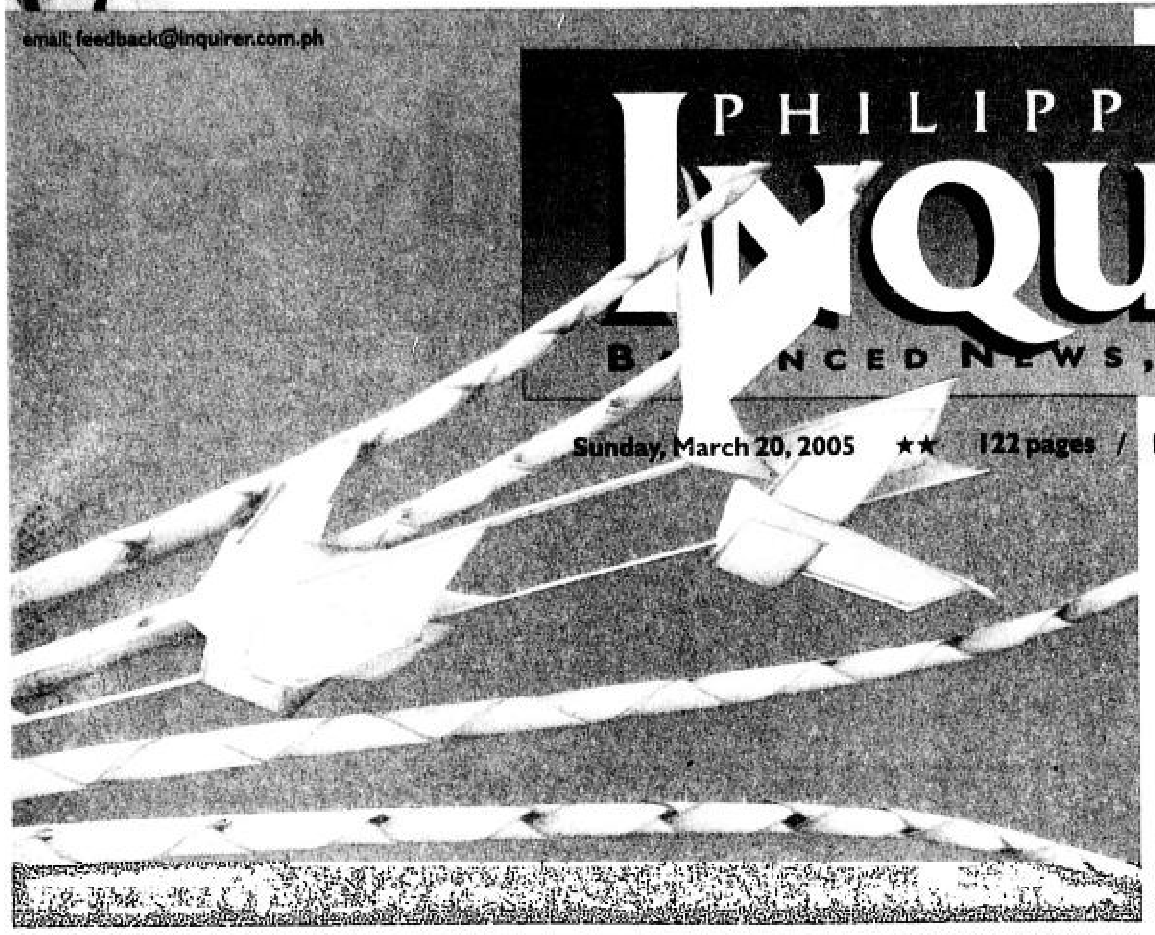


TEXT AND PHOTO BY NOLI YAMSUAN

ART OF THE PALM
The Saturday before Palm Sunday, folks from Calauan, Laguna, come to Quiapo in Manila bearing their precious bundles of unopened palm leaves. This they will weave, trim and dress up as *palaspas* for Palm Sunday which ushers in the Mahal na Araw (Holy Week). The Bible says that when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, he was hailed by the people waving their cloaks and branches of leaves crying out: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

Today, the palaspas will be brought to churches to be sold to massgoers and for the priest to bless. The blessed palaspas are brought home and hung outside the house. During stormy nights a piece of the dried leaves is lit in the belief that it is protection from lightning and thunder. The church keeps a number of the palaspas, and before next year's Ash Wednesday, this is burned, mixed with water, blessed and used to mark a cross on the faithful's forehead.

Boys' rite of passage best on Black Saturday

By Madonna T. Virola
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUEDE KA NANG MANLIGAW!

BULALACAO, Oriental Mindoro—Planning a circumcision? How about on Black Saturday?

Boys here, aged 9-12, prefer to have their circum-

BOYS'/ A21

Lay Catholics read Bible in original Greek, Hebrew

By Minerva Generelao
Head, PDI Research

"MY GOD, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

This verse, one of the Seven Last Words of Jesus Christ on the cross, will be read twice in today's Palm Sunday Mass.

Most Filipino Catholics would have their readings in English, Filipino or in their local dialects.

LAY/ A20

Tyson goes for Pacquiao

GenSan fighter vows to carry the whole nation in his fists

By Recah Trinidad

LAS VEGAS—Instant immortality awaits Manny Pacquiao in this dazzling capital when he takes his gamble of gambles against Mexico's Erik Morales today with a bold, heroic vow to carry the whole nation in his arms.

And Pacquiao, who has been called Little Tyson, yesterday received a confidence vote from the world heavyweight boxing great who inspired the Filipino boxing star's fierce, blazing style.

Mike Tyson, who is here to watch the fight, said he liked Morales to win but acknowledged the power of Pacquiao during a chance interview at the MGM Grand lobby where he was mobbed by fans who recognized him.

"Have you seen Pacquiao fight?" he was asked.

"Yes, he's powerful," said Tyson who started banging on the door to the VIP check-in.

Tyson first saw Pacquiao when the Filipino boxing celebrity from General Santos City saw action against Jorge Julio in the main supporting bout of Iron Mike's losing fight with Lennox Lewis in Memphis in June 2002.

Tyson, after picking Pacquiao, said Morales could have a chance if he uses "constant jabs, combinations."

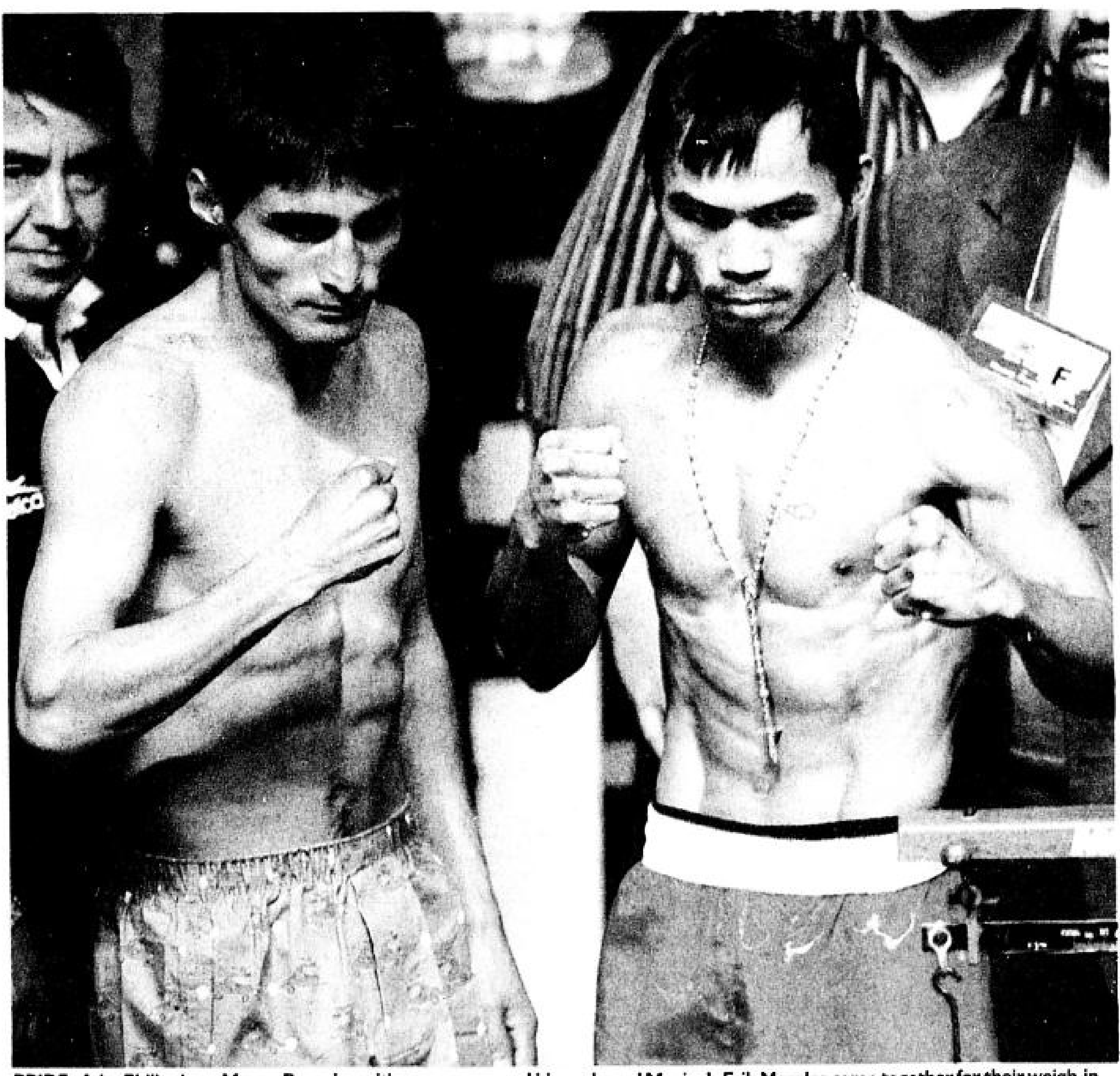
Tyson said the fight won't last the distance. *(More stories in Sports, Page A25)*

"Pacquiao might stop him. He throws too many punches. Morales don't throw too many punches. It will be hard for Morales to keep the guy off. It will be hard to stop him."

No official title is at stake but the reward in the fistic war at the MGM Grand Garden Arena cannot be aptly measured for its worth and impact..

Every punch he throws will be for his countrymen—*"Basta sa bawa't suntok ko kasama 'yung mga kababayan kong*

TYSON/ A22



PRIDE of the Philippines, Manny Pacquiao with a rosary around his neck, and Mexico's Erik Morales come together for their weigh-in on Friday at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. The boxers are set to meet on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila). Morales weighed in at 130 pounds; Pacquiao at 129.5. The Mexican has only two losses in 49 fights; Pacquiao only lost twice in 39 fights. AP

PNP security tight as FPJ funeral and Bush visit

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE SECURITY preparations in Metro Manila this Holy Week are comparable to those put in place during the visit of US President George W. Bush in October 2003 and the burial of movie king Fernando Poe Jr. last December.

This was what Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said yesterday when asked whether the current security measures put up in response to the supposed bomb plot of the Abu Sayyaf had any recent parallels.

"But if you will recall, every year we really prepare for the Holy Week and the summer vacation. However, the bomb threat of the Abu Sayyaf [has been added]," he said.

Razon said some 10,000 of the NCRPO's 15,000 men would be deployed at any given time in the metropolis, to be augmented by 1,000 soldiers from the Armed Forces' NCR Command and more than 100 men from the Special Action Force (SAF) of the Philippine National Police.

He said the SAF would be deployed to "sensitive areas" as needed, and that soldiers were now helping man checkpoints in the south, east and north entry points to Metro Manila.

Razon identified the "sensitive areas"

PNP SECURITY/ A22

Silliman U grad wins int'l tilt for making fish sleep without water

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—He seemed out of his league but what mattered was that he could make fish sleep without water for more than 12 hours.

For his feat, Bonifacio Comandante, a graduate student of Silliman University, won one of the three major prizes in the Best International Business Plan competition dominated by business students from big name schools, such as Oxford, Wharton and Stanford.

The two other major and bigger prizes, including the grand prize of $25,000, went to entries from the University of California Berkley and Northwestern University.

Comandante is the first Filipino to win one of the top prizes in the prestigious contest.

His third place finish in the 7th University of San Francisco Business Plan competition held in California March 9-12 was worth $2,500 in cash. *(See related story on Page B1.)*

"Fantastic" was how some of America's leading businessmen and investment firms described the waterless fish transport technology, Comandante told the INQUIRER.

The 45-year-old Filipino did not only win honors for his country. With his technology, he may also have boosted the competitiveness of Philippine fish traders in the world market.

"I felt very nervous," Comandante,

SILLIMAN/ A21

THERE'S always room for one more for this Batak mother. CHARLES BUBAN

VANISHING TRIBE

Palawan Batak urged to have 'lots of babies'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

SPECIAL REPORT

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—They are probably the only communities in the country today where "making lots of babies" is officially encouraged, and rewarded as well.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn was referring to the tribal settlements in five villages that are home to the Batak, Palawan's vanishing tribe.

All highly marginalized communities, the villages sit on the slopes of Cleopatra's Needle, a 1,593-meter mountain more than 80 km northwest of the Palawan capital.

They are located in sitio Mangapin in barangay Langogan; Tagnaya in Concepcion; Riandacan in Maoyon; Cayasan in Tagabinit, and Kalakuasan in Tanabag.

A "slow but sure population growth is our target," Hagedorn told the INQUIRER.

Their main goal? "Preventing the Batak from being erased from the pages of history."

Hagedorn's office is pushing for the "make-more-Batak-babies" program in coordination with the city health office.

Cash gifts, food supplies, vegetable and fruit seeds and other incentives await participating couples.

"We'll also provide financing for small livelihood projects," said Hagedorn, who promised special awards for program "topnotchers," whatever that means.

Hagedorn sees no conflict between the program and the Department of

BATAKS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains while the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/20/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA stands by fired US adviser

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INSURANCE bigwig Maurice "Hank" Greenberg will continue to be in President Macapagal-Arroyo's international advisory group even after he was forced to relinquish his chief executive post in American International Group after the United States insurance giant was targeted for investigation by US regulators over its financial records.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said Greenberg was a "valuable member of President Arroyo's International Advisory Board."

"We trust that he will continue to serve on the International Advisory Board in his new capacity as non-executive chairman of AIG," he said.

AIG, the parent firm of Philippine American Insurance Co., announced on Monday that Greenberg would be stepping down as chief executive as part of a "management succession plan" but that Greenberg would continue to serve as AIG's non-executive chair.

AIG came under suspicion when it was reported that the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Attorney General's Office were looking into some of its transactions that may have artificially burnished the company's financial picture.

The US-based "Wall Street Journal" newspaper reported in November that Greenberg was the target of a federal investigation for allegedly manipulating AIG's stock prices in 2001. AIG paid $126 million to end the investigations.

Greenberg is said to be President Arroyo's "eyes and ears" in corporate America and in Washington politics.

"His advice and insights have been very helpful in assisting us in monitoring the perceptions of the international business community regarding the Philippines as an investment location. Through the many years he and his firm have been doing business in the Philippines and their numerous investments, they have demonstrated their commitment to the growth of our economy," Bunye said.

Greenberg heads the IAB that was formed a few years ago to help the President formulate policies to boost Philippine competitiveness in the global market. The group is supposed to assist the administration in coming up with best practices to strengthen the country's economic program and its relations with the international financial community.

Last year, the IAB advised the Arroyo government to step up its anti-corruption drive and press the Congress to pass reform legislation designed to increase business confidence and foreign investments in the Philippines.

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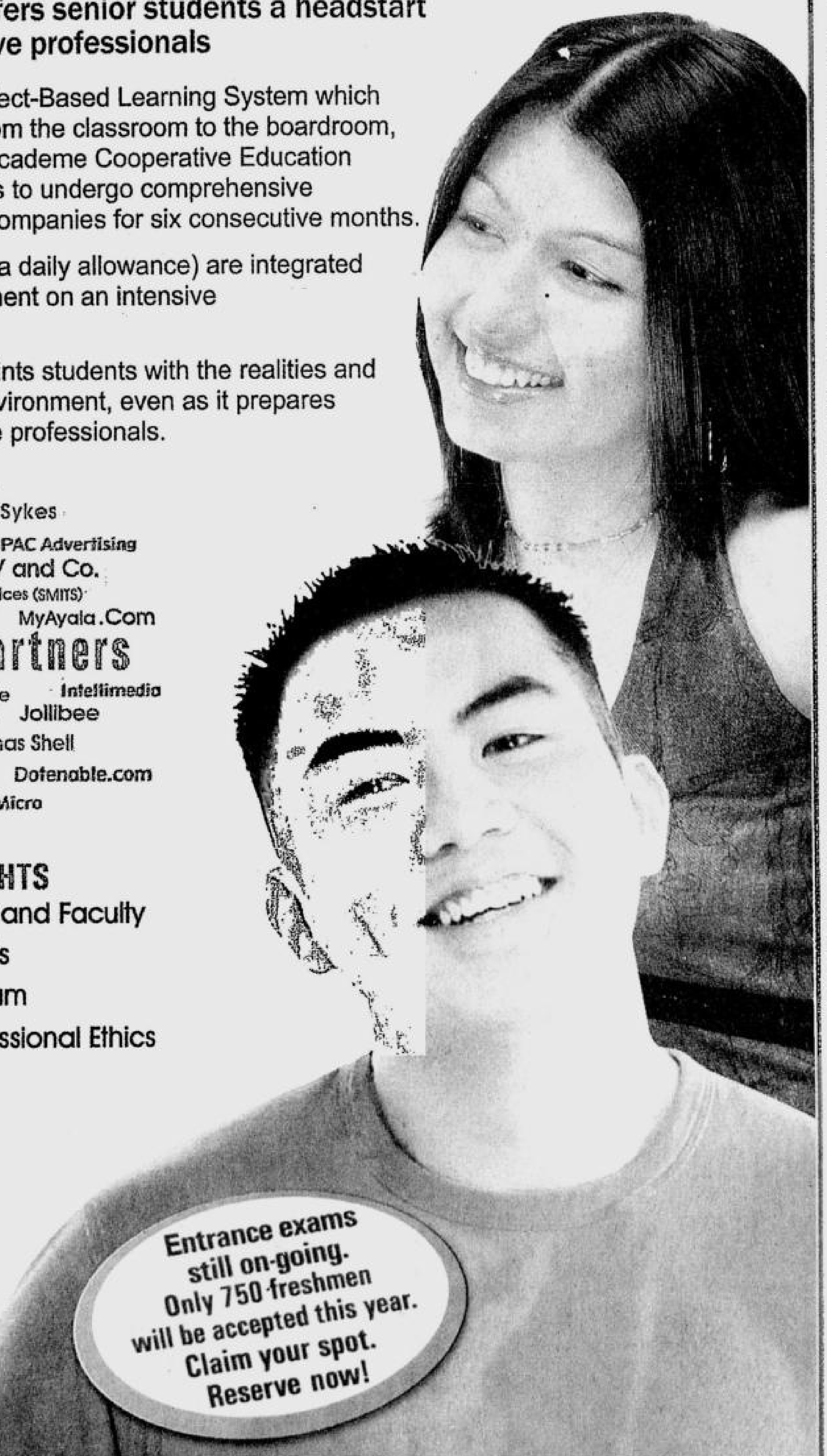

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Failure to pass VAT will hurt poor—Palace

SEEKING to pressure Congress to pass the value-added tax reforms by April 1, Malacañang warned lawmakers yesterday that failure to approve the measure would hamper the delivery of programs to the poor.

"What is at stake here is the fate of the government's pro-poor agenda and the thousands of jobs that can be reaped through increased confidence and investments," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

"We are banking on the special session to provide the clincher to finally get the VAT bill passed."

The Senate had declared a Lenten break from March 19 to April 10 without passing its version of the VAT reforms, but President Macapagal-Arroyo, in a bid to prod the lawmakers into passing the measure, ordered a special session from March 30 to April 1.

Bunye, speaking on RMN radio, expressed confidence the lawmakers would give priority to the interests of the country by "exerting all efforts to attend the special session."

Ms Arroyo last called a special session in early January this year, but only a handful of legislators cut short their Christmas vacation and heeded Malacañang's appeal to approve new tax measures.

Congress failed to meet Malacañang's target of March 18 for the passage of the VAT reforms measure.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo did not begrudge the senators their failure to approve the proposed increase in the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent and the lifting of VAT exemptions on petroleum and power sales and services of professionals.

"It only shows that we are respecting the legislative process so the President has nothing to feel bad about what happened," Bunye said.

Malacañang is taking comfort in that the senators did not reject the VAT reforms outright, Bunye said. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Solon defends Las Vegas trip

THERE'S nothing wrong with going to Las Vegas and cheering for a modern-day Filipino hero.

Defending his congressional colleagues' trip to the so-called Entertainment Capital of the World, Davao Oriental Rep. Joel Mayo Almario said yesterday they were making the trip to "lend moral support" to Manny Pacquiao in his epic match with Mexican Erik Morales.

Almario, chair of the House committee on games and amusement, denied reports that he was in the group of more than a dozen congressmen who had gone to Las Vegas.

One of the group, Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo Plaza, even said that Congress had paid for his plane ticket and given him a $1,500 allowance.

Almario said that House members had completed action on the administration's urgent bills and were still waiting for the Senate to come up with its own versions of the proposed laws.

"There is nothing wrong with congressmen going to support Pacquiao, our modern hero," he said.

The Lower House on Thursday adjourned its session for the Lenten break.

"House members have not been remiss in their duty to their constituents as well as to the country as shown by the completion of urgent measures," Almario said.

Rep. Ace Barbers, chair of the accounts committee, said he did not sign any travel authority concerning his colleague's trip to Las Vegas.

He said the House did not sanction the trip and that if members of Congress wanted to see the boxing match, they should spend their own money.

Barbers added that the congressmen who left for Las Vegas could not avail of any travel allowance since travel authorities must first be signed and submitted to the committee on inter-parliamentary relations and diplomacy, prior to the trip. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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Sta. Cruz, Manila

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Quiapo, Manila

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Pacdal District, Baguio City

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Laoag, Ilocos Norte

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Manaoag, Pangasinan

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CALVARY HILLS
Iguig, Cagayan

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THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF PIAT
(The Lady of the Visitation)
Piat, Cagayan Valley

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Cagayan Valley

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Angeles City

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Lubao, Pampanga

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(National Shrine Of The Virgin Of
Peace and Good Voyage)
Antipolo, Rizal

REGION IV

PAETE CHURCH
(Parish Church Of St James
The Great Apostle)
Paete, Laguna

PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT JEROME
Morong, Rizal

REGION V

OUR LADY OF SALVATION
(Patroness Of Legaspi Diocese)
Horoan, Tiwi, Albay

BASILICA OF THE OUR
LADY OF PEÑAFRANCIA
Naga City

PEÑAFRANCIA SHRINE

OUR LADY OF THE GATE
PARISH CHURCH

REGION VI.

DIOCESAN SHRINE OF THE
STO. NIÑO DE KALIBO
Kalibo, Aklan

MOLO CHURCH (Parish Of St Anne)
Molo, Iloilo City

JARO CATHEDRAL
(St Elizabeth Metropolitan Cathedral)
Jaro, Iloilo City

JORDAN CHURCH
(St John The Baptist Church)
Poblacion Jordan, Guimaras

REGION VII.

BASILICA MINORE DEL STO NIÑO
Cebu

MIRACULOUS SHRINE OF
OUR LADY IN SIMALA
Cebu

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Bohol

DAUIS CHURCH
Bohol

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Bohol

LOON CHURCH
Bohol

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Tacloban City

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Tacloban City

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overlooking Tacloban City

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Maasin, Southern Leyte

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Catubig, Northern Samar

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Basey, Samar

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CATHOLIC RECTORY
Dapitan City

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OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Zamboanga City

REGION X

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Matina, Davao City

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Davao City

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JESUS OF PRAGUE
Shrine Hills, Matina

ST. MARY OF PERPETUAL ROSARY

REGION XII

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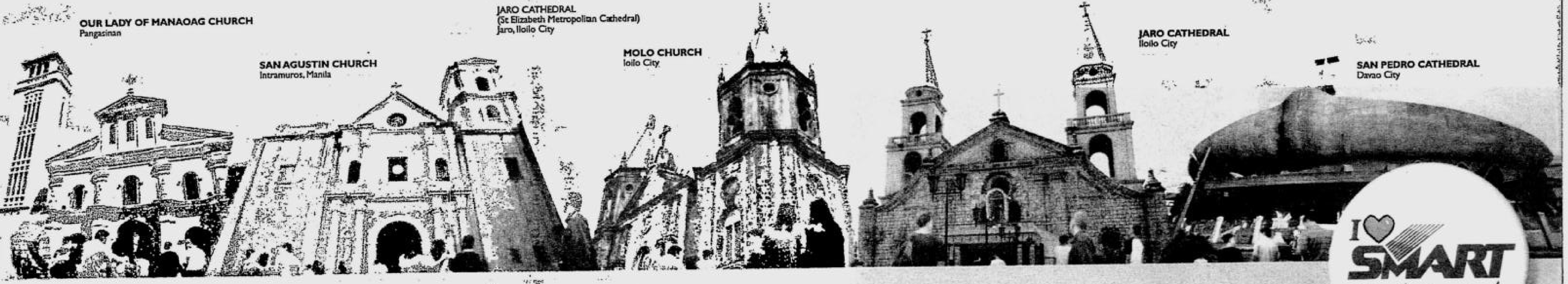

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PNP exec says Abus after him

By Luige A. del Puerto

ARE ABU Sayyaf members or their sympathizers on the trail of the spokesperson of the Philippine National Police?

Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, said two "Tausug-sounding" men clad in dark jackets were looking for his home in Taguig the other night.

"Where does Bataoil live?" the PNP spokesperson said the two men asked a neighbor at around 8 p.m. Friday.

"Our neighbor said she was new to the area and did not know where I lived," Bataoil said.

Bataoil said the neighbor narrated the incident to his househelp who told him about it yesterday.

"As a result of what happened, I told my helper to be very observant," he said.

Asked how he came to the conclusion the men were "Tausug-sounding," Bataoil said they spoke Filipino with an unmistakable accent.

Many members of the Abu Sayyaf belong to the Tausug tribe, a group in the southern Philippines that is predominantly Muslim.

BATAOIL

"Abu Sayyaf men may be out to get even with me because of my pronouncements against them during the [Camp Bagong Diwa] siege," Bataoil said.

He said this was not the first time enemies of the state had threatened him.

In 2002 when he was appointed PNP spokesperson, Bataoil said he received threats in the form of black ribbons and letters, telling him his days were numbered.

He said the threats had most likely come from the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

"Ka Roger (CPP-NPA spokesperson) has been very vocal against me," Bataoil said.

"I'm doing my job and I won't not be deterred by these threats," he added.

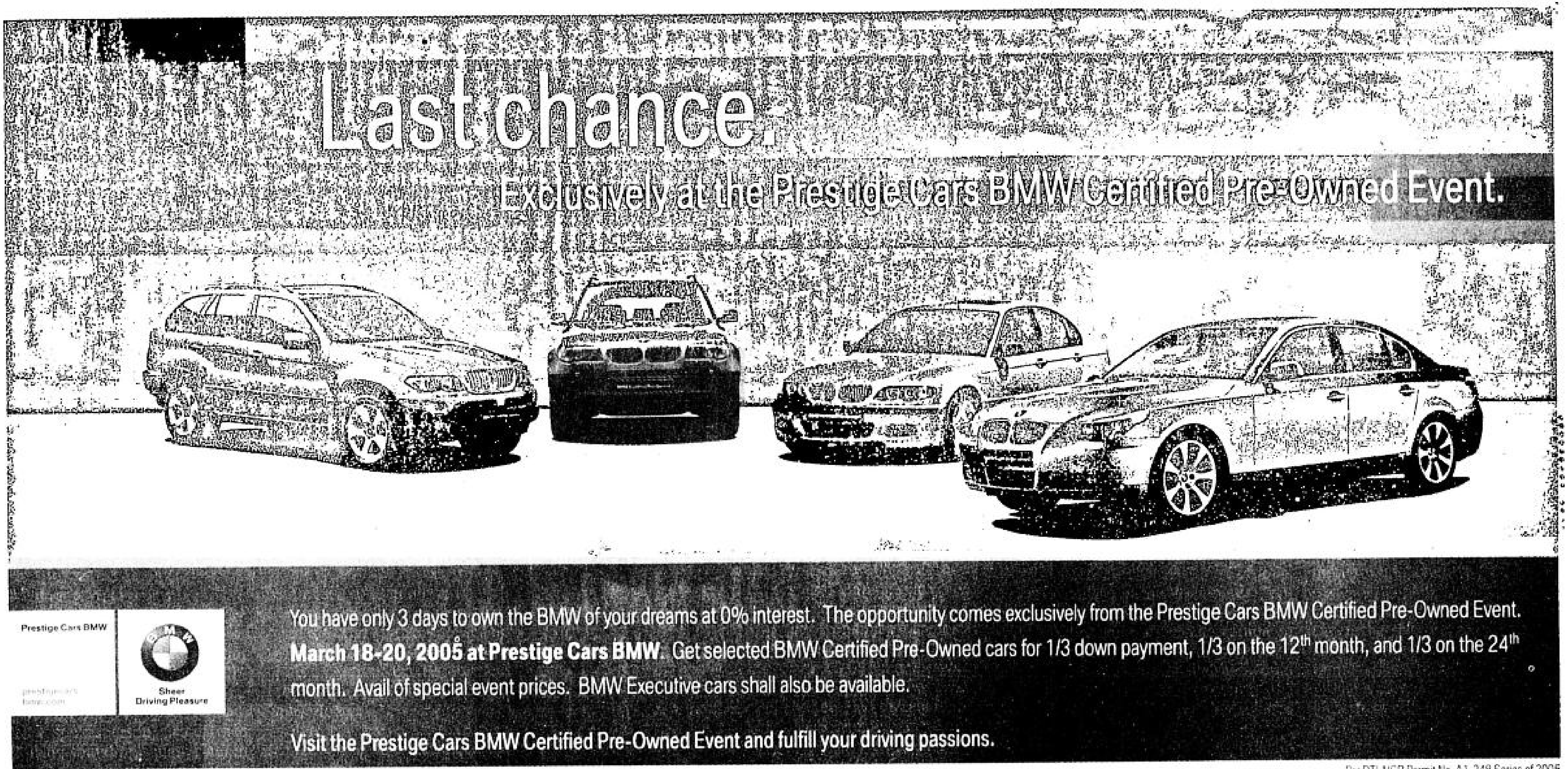
Drive for press freedom

THE NATIONAL Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) yesterday launched a nationwide signature campaign against the enactment of anti-terrorist laws that it said would severely affect freedom of the press and the public's right to know.

"Reporters are supposed to develop as many sources as possible, including those the government might consider terrorists. If any of the anti-terrorism bills now pending are passed, they would be obliged to become witnesses against these sources, or else be in danger of being themselves charged with helping terrorism," the NUJP said in its primer on anti-terror legislation.

The NUJP said the proposed anti-terror bills now pending in both chambers of Congress include "draconian penalties."

A mere proposal to engage in terrorism would be penalized by six to 12 years imprisonment, and police need only to prove mere threat for the accused to receive a life sentence, it said. *Norman Bordadora*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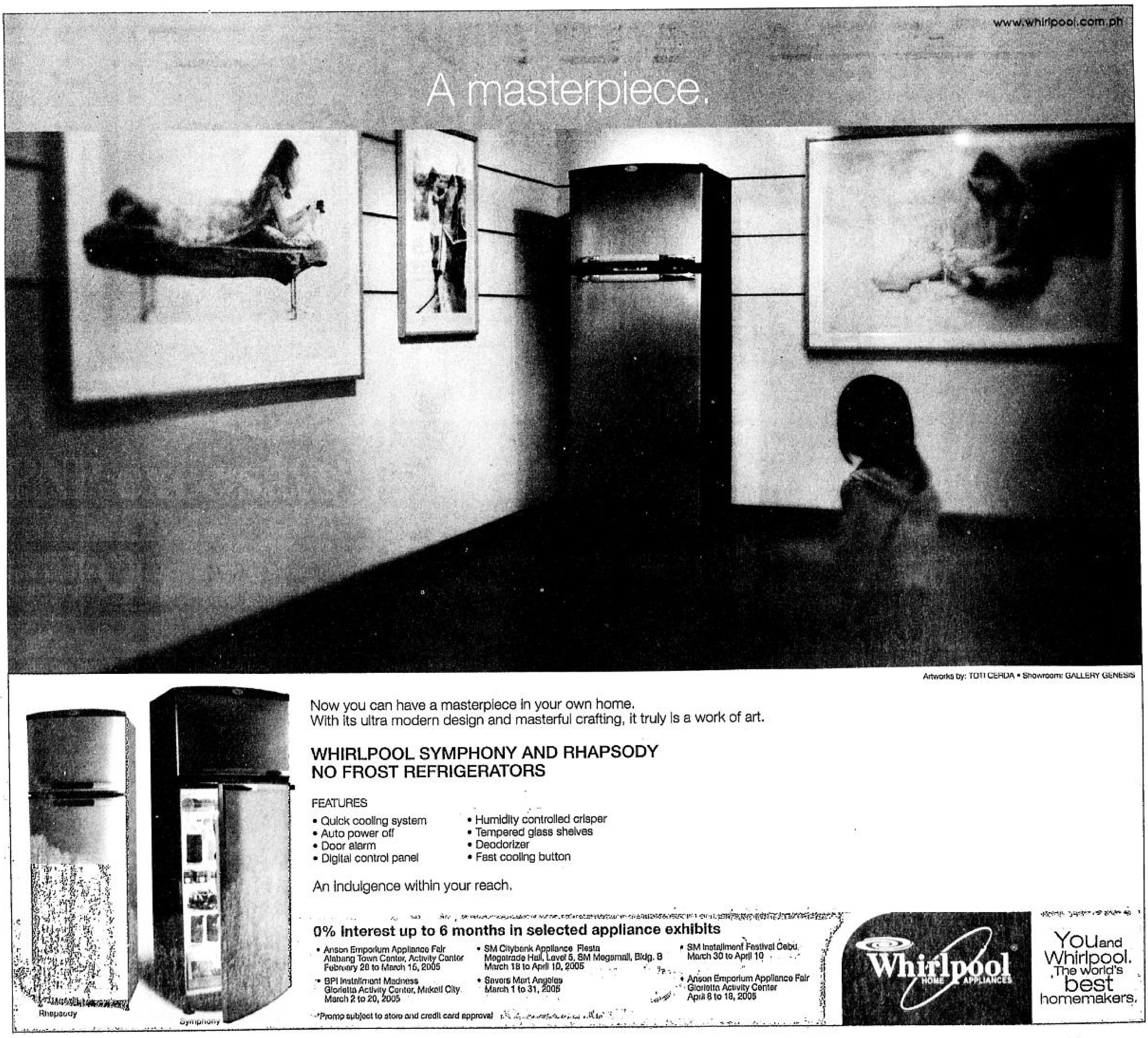
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  March 18 to April 10, 2005
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  March 1 to 31, 2005
- SM Installment Festival Cebu
  March 30 to April 10
- Anson Emporium Appliance Fair
  Glorietta Activity Center
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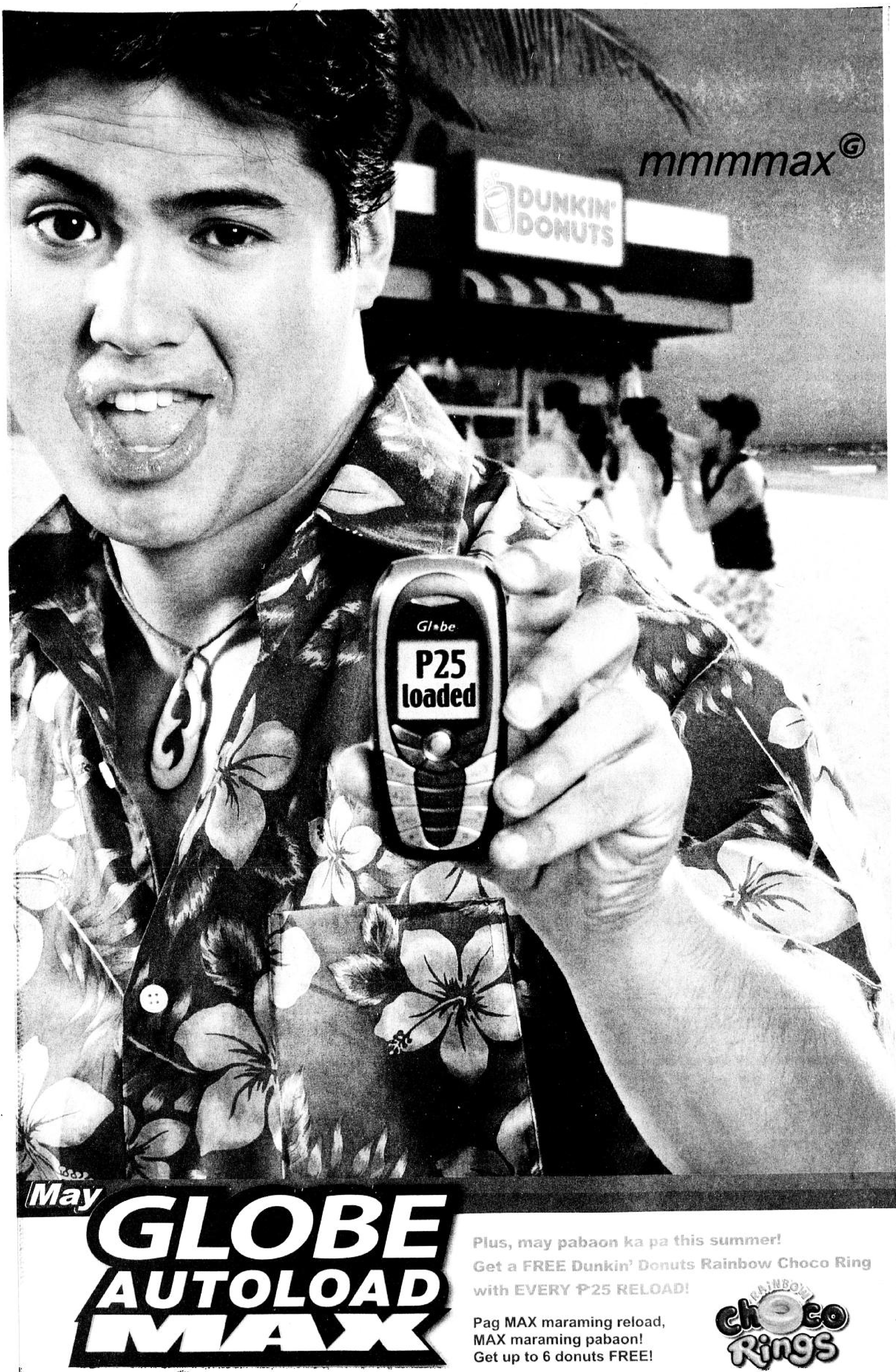

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Petron follows suit, hikes prices by 50¢

By Christine Gaylican

IT'S never ending.

Less than a day after its chief rivals raised their prices, Petron Corp. followed suit midnight Friday and likewise increased its pump prices by 50 centavos per liter, citing higher prices of Dubai crude oil.

"This would reflect the continuing rise in crude costs. We will continue to offer diesel discounts in selected stations nationwide," Petron said in a statement.

Early Friday, Pilipinas Shell Inc., Caltex Philippines Inc. and new oil players increased the prices of their petroleum products by the same amount.

Third installment

The increase was the third installment in the series of price increases this month.

Diesel fuel is now priced at P25.80 per liter while unleaded gasoline now averages P29.60 to P30.20 per liter.

In the last two weeks, oil companies had increased fuel prices by 50 centavos per liter.

They had advised Malacañang of their plan to recover their additional costs of about P2 per liter this month.

Oil companies claimed that the 14 percent jump in the prices of Dubai crude, the 22 percent increase in unleaded gasoline prices and the 28 percent rise in diesel from end-January to end-February should translate to an average increase of P2.50 per liter in pump prices in March.

Staggered basis

However, these underrecoveries were implemented in a staggered basis or by installment to ease the impact on the consuming public.

"As much as we would want a full recovery, our market could not absorb as much," Pilipinas Shell vice president for corporate communications Roberto Kanapi said in an interview.

Public transport discount

Aside from limiting the price hike to 50 centavos per liter per week, Malacañang agreed to push for the P1 per liter discount to public transport groups in 247 gasoline stations nationwide, launch 200 buses powered by compressed natural gas, promote ethanol blend in gasoline, and adopt energy conservation measures.

Leading bets pull out of stock exchange race

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IT MUST be the Holy Week mood.

In sharp contrast to the tumultuous elections that had marred elections at the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) in the past, yesterday's PSE elections were relatively uneventful.

Even the much-coveted PSE chairmanship which feuding factions at the PSE had bitterly contested in the past suddenly had no takers after three powerhouse brokers signified separately their respective intentions not to run for chair in today's board meeting.

Outgoing PSE chair Alicia Rita Arroyo, the wife of Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo and sister-in-law of President Macapagal-Arroyo, told reporters yesterday that she was no longer running for PSE chair after serving two consecutive terms.

Arroyo, who was elected director of the PSE board and garnered the second highest number of votes, said she would be performing her duties as a congressional wife and had lined up projects for her husband's district this year.

Arroyo said she hoped this would lead to the unification of the board after her term was racked by controversy, after government and private institutions were allowed to control 40 percent of the PSE when it was demutualized or converted into a stock corporation.

Veteran Makati broker Vivian Yuchengco, a former chair of the PSE, also declined to run for the top PSE post. Yuchengco got the third highest number of votes yesterday.

"I have seven votes as chair but as I said before, I'm not running. This is for the development of the stock exchange," Yuchengco said.

Veteran Manila broker Robert Coyiuto Jr., who served as PSE chair in 1994 and was the topnotcher among the elected brokers to the board yesterday, said he was also not running for PSE chair.

PSE sources said the post may be a toss-up between former banker and reelected PSE director Peter Favila and reelected broker director William Ang, who has the support of Yuchengco.

Favila is serving his fourth term in the PSE board and reportedly has Malacañang's blessing to head the PSE. Favila was not immediately available for comment. Favila is a presidential adviser on infrastructure finance and an economic adviser to the Speaker of the House of Representatives. He was former president of Philippine National Bank, Security Banking Corp. and Allied Banking Corp. He has served as an independent PSE director since 2002.

Ang, on the other hand, is president of local broker Astra Securities and chair of Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines (SCCP), the clearing house for stock market trades.

Also elected to the 15-man PSE board at the annual stockholder's meeting held yesterday at the Tektite Towers in Ortigas were Conrado Bate of CitisecOnline.Com Phils. Inc., Alejandro Yu of R.S.Lim & Co. and Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc. There are seven brokers that sit on the PSE board.

The remaining eight are non-brokers, namely, Asian Alliance Investment Corp. president and Investment House Association of the Philippines director Roberto Atendido, Philippine Bank of Communications independent director Jose Luis Javier, former Kimberly-Clark Phils. chair Cornelio Peralta, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) chair Bernardino Abes, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. treasurer Anabelle Lim-Chua, San Miguel Corp. financial analyst Frederick de Vera, and PSE president Francis Lim.

Nene: Gov't could save P300B

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to abolish the local offices of five big-budget departments, saying this would result in savings to the government of at least P300 billion.

Pimentel singled out the public works, interior and local government, health, agriculture and social welfare departments which continue to maintain local offices even though the Local Government Code provides that national departments and agencies whose functions had been devolved to local government units should no longer maintain regional or district offices.

He said these departments' local offices, which are often heavily staffed and allocated big budgets, had become superfluous because their functions were already being carried out by the LGUs.

Pimentel cited the case of the Department of Public Works and Highways whose district offices are sometimes less suitably equipped than many local governments.

He said the DPWH even borrows equipment from the local governments.

The opposition senator said these offices eat up a considerable amount of the national budget and their abolition could thus become a major revenue source for the cash-strapped government.

Basing his calculations on the P907-billion national budget for 2005, the senator said the abolition of the regional offices of these five departments alone could result in savings of up to P300 billion. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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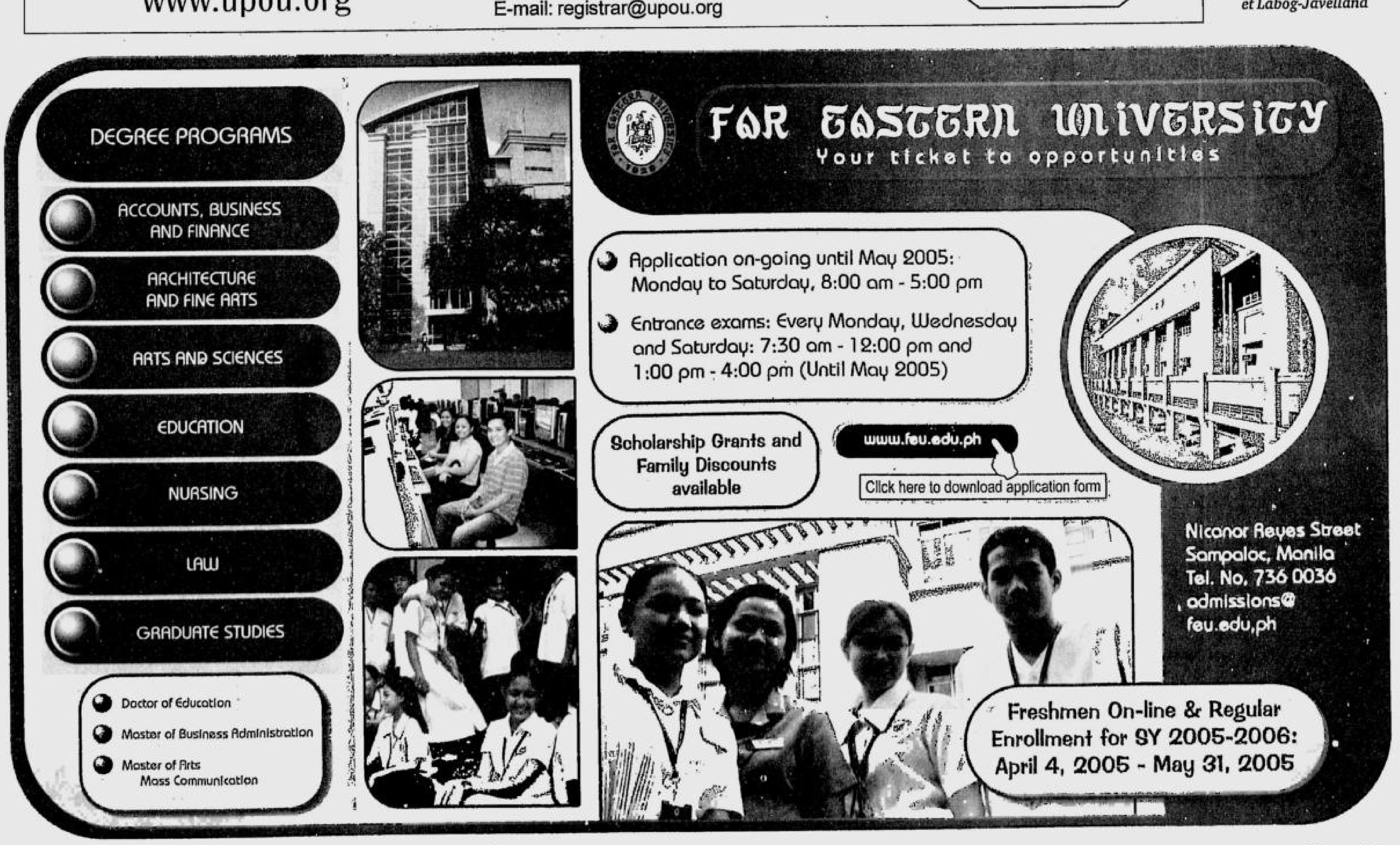

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Iraq would be safer once US leaves, says anti-war activist

By Volt Contreras

FOREIGN workers in Iraq, including Filipinos, can look forward to a "safer" time in the violence-wracked country once the United States military leaves and an independent government takes over, according to an anti-war activist representing Iraq's biggest labor union.

"Believe me, within two to three months all the criminals will be back in prison" if the Iraqis are left alone to enforce the law, said Farouk Sadik Isma'al, foreign affairs secretary of the Southern Oil Co. Union, the labor union of Iraq's largest firm.

Isma'al was in Manila last week as a guest of the Iraq Solidarity Campaign (Philippines), which marked the second anniversary of the US "occupation" of Iraq on March 20.

"For 20 years, since the 1980s when Iraq was at war with Iran, we have plenty of foreign workers, especially from Philippines, and for this reason we like the Filipino people and would like to invite them to work with us," Isma'al said in an interview.

He said the continuing violence in his country was largely the work of criminals who were able to leave prison after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was toppled.

Isma'al took part in a protest rally on T. M. Kalaw St. on Friday staged by militant groups demanding the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. Anti-riot police prevented the protesters from going to the US Embassy.

In a forum at the University of the Philippines on Thursday, the Iraqi labor leader said that "if you want to help us rebuild our country, help us end its occupation by the United States and its allies."

Lebanon 'forgives' Filipinos

THIRTY Filipinos—including 17 minors—were repatriated from Lebanon last week without having to undergo jail time or pay penalties under a Lebanese government program granting amnesty to undocumented aliens, the Department of Foreign Affairs said on Friday.

The program initially covered only Indian and Sri Lankan nationals as a "gesture of compassion" to countries affected by the tsunami tragedy late last year, said Nestor Padalhin, charge d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon.

The Filipinos were included as a result of talks conducted by the embassy with Lebanese immigration authorities since May 2004, Padalhin said.

Those who submitted to voluntary repatriation under the program were spared from having to pay penalties for overstaying—such as fees and imprisonment—while their exit papers were being processed, Padalhin said. *Volt Contreras*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ukraine admits it sold missiles to Iran, China

KIEV—Ukraine has sold nuclear-capable cruise missiles to both China and Iran, the prosecutor general's office said Friday, but stressed that the deals were illegal and under criminal investigation.

"This is not about exports of missiles but rather illegal sales which are being investigated by the SBU (security service) which has opened a criminal investigation of the director of the company. Ukraviazakas," the office said in a statement confirming a report by the London-based Financial Times' Friday edition.

The investigation was welcomed late Friday by the United States, which along with Japan is reportedly worried about what appears to be a significant leak of military technology.

"I think it's fair to say that both the United States government and the Ukrainian government share a common concern and a dedication to acting to find out and prevent cases of proliferation," deputy US state department spokesperson Adam Ereli said.

"We've been working with the Ukrainian government to clamp down on proliferation. And the Ukrainian government, since these reports have come out, has said it's launching an internal investigation," he said.

UKRAINE'S President Viktor Yushchenko, left, and chief of Ukraine's Defense and Security Council Petro Poroshenko in Kiev, Ukraine, Nov. 24, 2004. Poroshenko gave the military six weeks to perform a "total inventory" of Ukrainian weapons March 18. AP

"We certainly look forward to the results of that investigation," Ereli said. "And we'll work with them on steps and measures and joint actions we can take to prevent this kind of proliferation in the future."

Svyatoslav Piskun, Ukraine's prosecutor general, told the Financial Times that 18 Soviet-era X-55 cruise missiles were exported in 2001—12 to Iran and six to China.

Piskun was also quoted as saying that the missiles were not exported with the nuclear warheads that they were designed to carry.

His office said a suspect in the case was currently standing a closed-door trial in Kiev.

Ukraine Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk said that the country's new leadership, which assumed power during late last year, was not responsible for the sales.

"We can only condemn the non-democratic actions that were carried out by the previous authorities," he said while on a visit to neighboring Belarus.

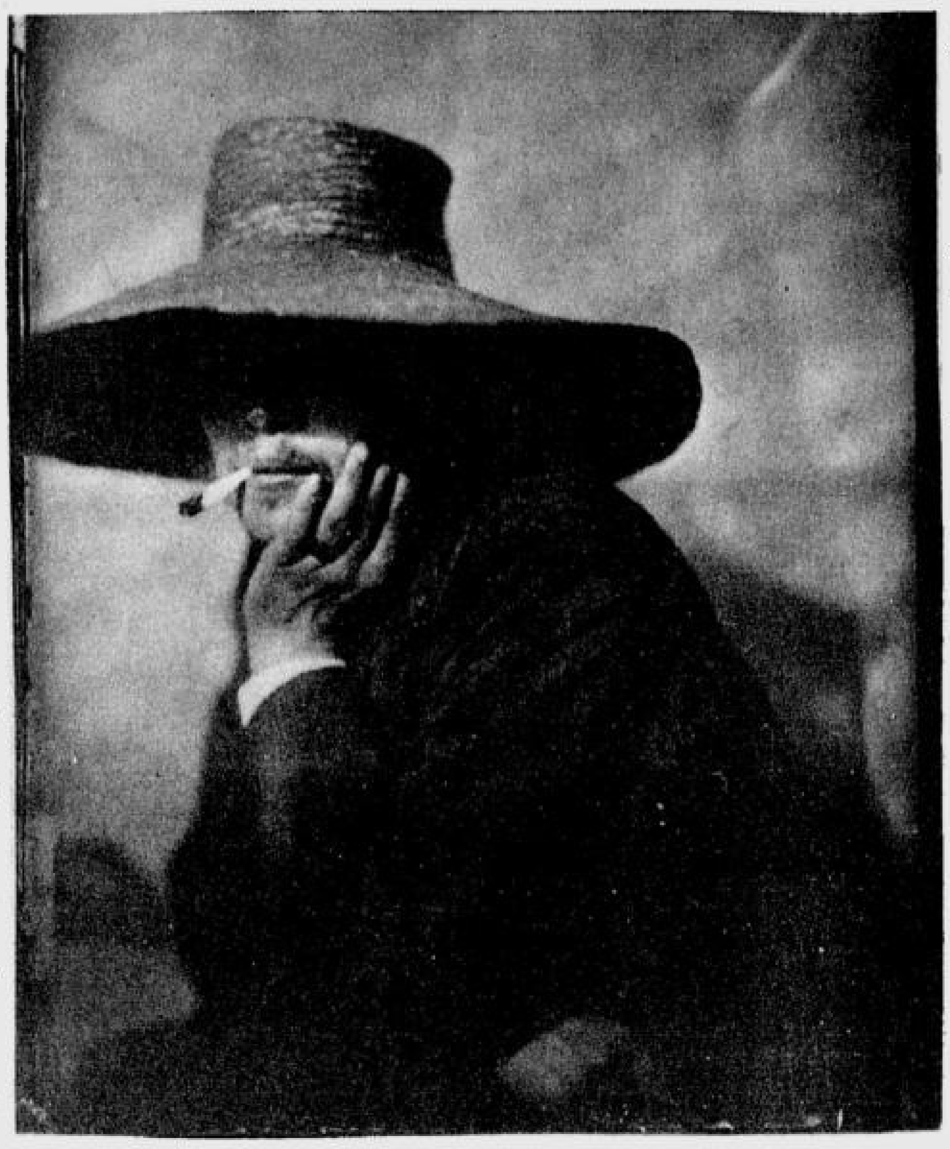
"The results of (our) investigation point to a criminal group that was involved in unlawful sales of arms," he said. Tarasyuk said the group included citizens of several countries.

The X-55, an air-launched missile also known as the Kh-55 and AS-15 and first introduced in 1976, has a range of 3,500 km, which would give China—or North Korea, if it obtained the missile—easy access to Japan, while Iran could hit its main regional foe, Israel.

Last month the Ukrainian government opened a criminal inquiry, at the request of Japan, into the illegal sale of 18 missiles by the Ukrspetsexport arms group to unspecified states via Russia.

The Ukrainian confirmation of missiles sales to Iran comes amid a tense diplomatic debate over Tehran's alleged quest for nuclear weaponry.

Reports about the missile sales going to Iran emerged earlier this month. *AFP*



SELF PORTRAIT

A photograph titled "Self Portrait" by Adrien Tournachon, French, ca. 1855 which is part of a collection recently acquired by New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art that was collected by industrialist Howard Gilman. The collection includes American Civil War pictures by Mathew Brady, Alexander Gardner and Timothy O'Sullivan, as well as work by Henri Cartier-Bresson and Man Ray. REUTERS

Japan rebuffs Rice, won't import US beef

TOKYO—Japan on Saturday refused to say when it would buy US beef again after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a personal appeal for it to resume imports stopped over fears of mad cow disease.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said after talks with Rice that Tokyo would make a decision on buying beef at an "appropriate" time.

"We fully realize this issue has deeply concerned the United States and Japan has been working to resolve this issue," he said.

"We are doing all we can to stop this issue from harming Japan-US ties," Machimura told a joint news conference.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has been directly lobbied on beef imports by US President George W. Bush, stressed that the trade row was only one issue between the close allies.

"She didn't just come here over beef," Koizumi told reporters after meeting the secretary of state. "Her name is Rice, not beef."

US members of Congress from farm states have called for trade sanctions against Japan, formerly the top overseas market for US beef, unless it resumes buying. Japan says it is waiting for its health experts to approve a way to ensure the meat is safe, a process which could take months. *AFP*

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Life tube of brain-damaged US woman removed

PINELLAS PARK, Fla.—Doctors removed the feeding tube that has kept a brain-damaged Florida woman alive for 15 years Friday after US lawmakers tried to prolong her life by subpoenaing her to appear before Congress.

The feeding tube was removed from Terri Schiavo, the woman at the heart of a long right-to-die battle, at 1:45 p.m. and she was expected to die in seven to 14 days.

Her husband's lawyer called the last-minute attempt by US congressional Republicans to keep the tube in place "nothing short of thuggery" and called Democrats "spineless" for failing to thwart it.

Schiavo has been fed through a stomach tube since a heart attack starved her brain of oxygen in 1990, leaving her in what the courts declared was a permanent vegetative state.

Her husband and legal guardian, Michael Schiavo, said she would not have wanted to live in that condition and won permission to remove the feeding tube.

He was not in his wife's room at the Woodside Hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, when the feeding tube was removed in what his lawyer, George Felos, described as a "very calm" and prayerful procedure. But her husband was at her bedside later, Felos said.

Republican congressional leaders made the last-minute bid to keep the tube in place by subpoenaing Terri Schiavo to appear before hearings and committees later in the month, a move that would have granted her protection as a witness in a congressional inquiry.

House of Representatives Majority Leader Tom DeLay called removing the feeding tube "an act of barbarism."

"Terri Schiavo is alive... She is as alive as you or I, and as such we have a moral obligation to protect and defend her from the fate premeditated by the Florida courts," DeLay said.

Felos said the congressional action was "odious, it was shocking, it was disgusting and I think all Americans should be very alarmed about that."

"They cannot walk over the dying body of Terri Schiavo for political gain," he added.

Her parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, are fighting to keep her alive, saying she responds to them and could improve with rehabilitation and have lobbied lawmakers to intervene.

"They're devastated," their lawyer, David Gibbs said after the tube was removed.

Congressional leaders issued the subpoenas after failing to enact legislation allowing federal courts to review the case.

The Florida courts have consistently ruled in Michael Schiavo's favor and the US Supreme Court has refused three times to intervene.

Michael Schiavo said Friday night he would not give up his campaign even though Terri was not believed to be in pain.

"I won't give it up. Terri is my life," he said on CNN's "Larry King Live." "I'm going to carry out her wishes to the very end. This is what she wanted. It's not about the Schindlers, it's not about me, it's not about Congress. It's about Terri."

The order to remove the feeding tube was briefly stayed while the Florida judge presiding over the case, Circuit Judge George Greer, held a telephone hearing to consider the congressional effort to intervene.

Greer rejected that bid and reinstated the order allowing removal of the tube. Congressional lawyers appealed the decision before the Florida Supreme Court, which rejected it.

Late Friday, in yet another attempt to keep Schiavo alive, the House committee on government reform made an emergency appeal to the US Supreme Court to have Schiavo's feeding tube reinserted, but that application was denied.

That latest appeal came after House and Senate Republican leaders vowed to work through the weekend on new legislation to save Schiavo's life. *Reuters*

SCHIAVO gets a kiss from her mother, Mary Schindler, in this Aug. 11, 2001, image taken from videotape and released by the Schindler family. AP

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Car bomb explodes in Lebanon capital

BEIRUT—A car bomb exploded in a mainly Christian eastern suburb of Beirut early on Saturday, wounding at least six people and raising fresh fears of a return to Lebanon's violent past.

A Reuters correspondent at the scene said the blast destroyed the first floor of an apartment block, blew out windows in surrounding buildings and gouged a large crater in the road. Cars parked nearby were wrecked.

"I was standing under this building and we heard a huge explosion and there was a big cloud of dust, and glass flew everywhere. We saw this car just fly into the air and land on the street right in front of us," said witness Rany Ayoub.

It was unclear whether the attack had a political motive. A security source said a bingo hall may have been the target of the bombing, which occurred after midnight. The bingo hall was not damaged apart from some broken windows.

The vehicle containing the bomb appeared to have been in a car park.

Security forces and ambulances flooded the area. Hospital officials said at least six people had been wounded.

Lebanon has been rocked by political turmoil since Feb. 14 when former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was killed in a car bomb attack, for which many Lebanese held Syria responsible.

Damascus denies the charge.

Syria, under international pressure particularly from US President George W. Bush, has begun pulling its troops out of its tiny neighbor after a three decade presence.

Many analysts and politicians warn strains are evident in the precarious political, religious and communal balance achieved since Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war. They say political tensions could spill into violence.

Christian opposition leader Michel Aoun said on Friday he hoped to end 14 years of exile and return to Lebanon within weeks, as soon as the Syrians had completed their pullout.

About one-fifth of the population and long Syria's most vocal opponents, the Maronite Christians have dominated the past few weeks' protests demanding the withdrawal of Syrian troops.

Syria completed the first phase of its troop pullout from Lebanon on Thursday.

A Lebanese security source said 4,000 to 6,000 Syrian troops had returned home since the pullout plan was announced on March 5, leaving 8,000 to 10,000 in eastern Lebanon.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan expects Syria to fully withdraw its forces before Lebanese elections due in May. *AP*

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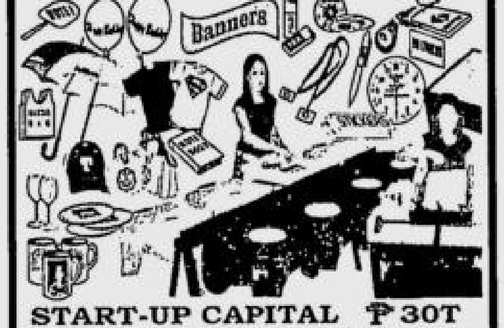

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THIS March 13 handout picture released from the Imperial Household Agency shows Japanese Princess Sayako and her fiance Yoshiki Kuroda enjoying bird-watching on the Imperial Palace grounds in Tokyo. AFP

Japanese emperor's only daughter formally engaged

TOKYO—The only daughter of Japan's Emperor Akihito, Princess Sayako, was formally engaged to an urban planner Saturday following a traditional ceremony held at the imperial palace.

Dressed in a long, white dress embroidered with cherry blossoms, the 35-year-old princess, accompanied by Akihito and Empress Michiko, accepted a marriage proposal from commoner Yoshiki Kuroda, the royal household said.

Sayako is due to marry her 39-year-old fiance, who works at the Tokyo metropolitan government, later this year, an official for the Imperial Household Agency said.

After the ceremony, called "Nosai no Gi," Sayako said in a statement: "I would like to express my deep gratitude to both the emperor and the empress for blessing us and for having 'Nosai no Gi' completed smoothly."

The two families exchanged gifts of two fresh sea bream, three bottles of sake and two sets of silk, the agency official said.

In Japan, sea bream is a celebratory fish and is often served at ceremonious occasions such as weddings. Sake and silk are traditional Japanese gifts.

Sayako, an avid bird watcher who works at an institute for ornithology, has to relinquish her royal title after marrying to Kuroda in accordance with Imperial House Law.

Japan's Chrysanthemum Throne, the world's oldest royal line, is under an unprecedented spotlight because of concerns about the health of Sayako's sister-in-law, Crown Princess Masako, and a debate about whether laws of succession should be changed to allow a female to ascend to the throne.

No boy has been born to the Japanese royal family since 1965.

Crown Prince Naruhito, the eldest son of Akihito's three children, went public in May last year with concerns that his wife Masako, a former diplomat, was being stifled by royal life and this was affecting her health.

After avoiding public duties for more than a year, Masako, diagnosed as suffering from a mental disorder related to stress, appeared on the Imperial Palace balcony in January to greet thousands of New Year well-wishers. *AFP*

Charles-Camilla wedding blessing to be televised

LONDON—Britons will be able to watch the church blessing of next month's wedding of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles live on television, royal officials said Friday, although the marriage itself remains private.

The religious service on April 8 at St. George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle, the royal family's home just west of London, will be broadcast in Britain, Charles' Clarence House office said.

"It has been agreed that the service of blessing and dedication will be televised live," a spokesperson said.

The blessing for the union of the heir to the British throne and his long-time partner will be led by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, spiritual head of the global Anglican church, and attended by about 750 guests.

However, the official marriage ceremony earlier that day at Windsor Guildhall—essentially the town hall—will remain a private, low-key affair, with just 30 people and no media in attendance.

The couple will then travel to Scotland to spend their honeymoon at Birkhall, the late Queen Mother's residence in Scotland. It is a favorite destination for Charles and Camilla, who will also be spending the Christian holiday Easter there in late March, a spokesperson for Prince Charles said Friday. *AFP*

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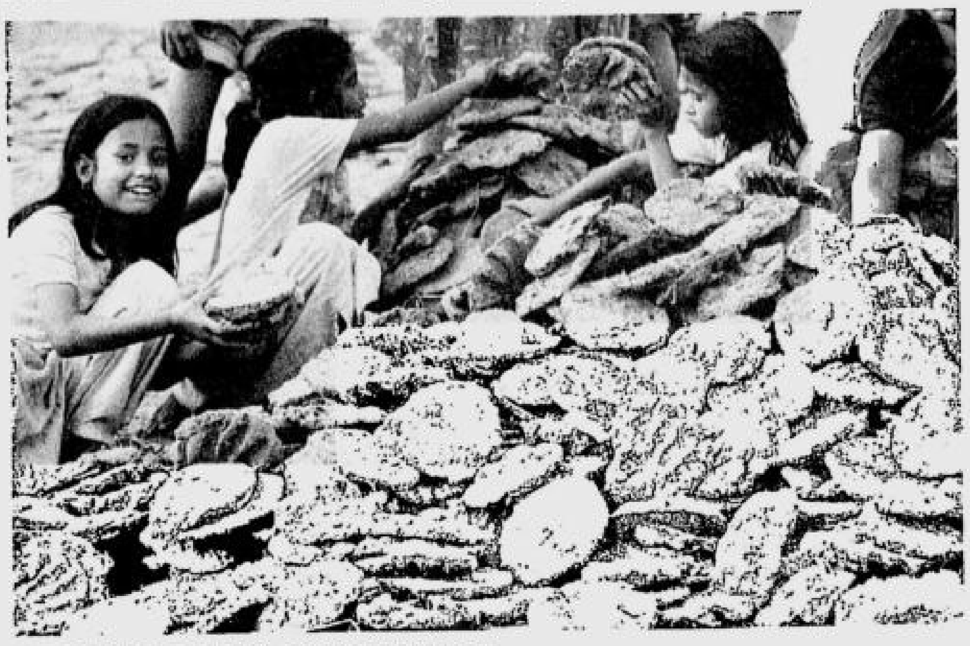

MONEY FROM, ER, COW MANURE
Bangladeshi children dry cow dung cakes under the sun beside an embankment in Dhaka March 19. People from the slums in Dhaka collect cow dung from different cattle markets to make cakes that they use as fuel for cooking and get some money by selling them. REUTERS

7 Iraqis killed in new bomb attack

BAGHDAD—At least seven Iraqis died Saturday, including three policeman blown up as they buried a murdered colleague, as protestors gathered in London to demand an end to the occupation of Iraq two years after the US-led invasion.

The policemen were killed and seven others wounded when a bomb exploded in the tense northern oil centre of Kirkuk as the funeral cortege of a comrade killed the previous day passed by, police chief General Turhan Yussef said.

Three of those wounded were in critical condition at Kirkuk's general hospital, an emergency services doctor said.

The policeman killed on Friday died when a patrol went to investigate a bag that two masked men had left in the street near the police academy, and a bomb inside exploded, Lt. Col. Khattab Arif said.

In other violence, an Iraqi soldier and two civilians, one an interpreter working for coalition forces, were killed in the north of the country, and the body of a man shot in the head execution-style was found.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the March 20, 2003 launch of the US-led invasion, some 100,000 people were expected to march through central London and leave a coffin outside the US embassy in protest at the assault and other elements of the war on terror, organizers said.

Starting at Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park at 1 p.m. and ending at Trafalgar Square, the demonstrators were to hear speeches by antiwar campaigners such as the mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and former Guantanamo Bay inmate Martin Mubanga.

"We need help to make this demonstration as big as possible," the organizer Stop The War Coalition, said on its website.

"With rumors of an attack on Iran in June and the demonstration being a matter of weeks before the general election it would be fantastic to have many hundreds of thousands of people expressing their antiwar sentiment," it said.

On Wednesday, antiwar protestors started to set up a "peace camp" in Trafalgar Square, not far from the Houses of Parliament, as part of preparations for the demonstration, which is supported by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. *AFP*

Pakistan to upgrade nuke-arm capability

ISLAMABAD—President Pervez Musharraf vowed Saturday to further upgrade Pakistan's nuclear capability but with a "strict adherence" to nonproliferation as he watched the test-firing of a long-range missile which can carry a nuclear warhead.

"The nation's nuclear capability, which enjoyed the broadest national consensus, was developed for Pakistan's own security and will continue to receive the highest national priority," a military statement quoted Musharraf as saying.

The military ruler allayed apprehensions about the future of the program, after the fresh disclosures about the activities of disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan.

"The capability was here to stay, will continue to go from strength to strength and no harm will ever be allowed to come to it," he said.

Pakistan admitted last week that Khan had supplied Iran with centrifuges, used to enrich uranium for atomic warheads. It said the government was not involved but has refused to give him up for questioning by other countries.

Khan, who is considered a national hero in Pakistan and is the father of its nuclear bomb, confessed in February 2004 to leaking secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya after a government probe into nuclear proliferation.

He was pardoned by Musharraf but has been living under virtual house arrest in Islamabad.

"The president reiterated Pakistan's policy of consolidating and strengthening its minimum deterrence needs, as well as strict adherence to non-proliferation," the statement said.

Saturday's firing of the Shaheen 2 (Hatf VI) surface-to-surface missile was successful, the statement said.

"This missile system, which incorporates advanced two-stage solid motor technology, can carry all types of conventional and nuclear warheads to a range of 2,000 km," it said.

"The test was carried out to verify some of the refined technical parameters... all parameters were validated."

Musharraf congratulated the scientists and engineers on the test and said "the nation is proud of its strategic organizations and strategic forces."

He said these forces had "gelled extremely well" under the National Command Authority into an effective deterrence force in a short span of five years.

"Their technical and operational readiness was indeed praiseworthy and a source of strength and security for Pakistan," Musharraf said.

Neighboring states, particularly nuclear-armed rival India, were given prior notification of the test "as per existing practice, as a confidence building measure," the statement said.

Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in May 1998 after rival India conducted similar detonations. Both countries have active missile programs.

Pakistan and India have a bitter history of confrontation, mainly over the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir which is divided between the two and claimed by both in full.

Two of the countries' three wars since gaining independence from Britain in 1947 have been over Kashmir.

But the South Asian rivals have been engaged in a peace dialogue since January last year. *AFP*

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World Bank democracy

EDITORIAL

BY TRADITION, it is the United States which nominates the president of the World Bank; Europeans choose the managing director of the International Monetary Fund. In nominating the controversial Paul Wolfowitz, a leader of the American neoconservative movement and the most influential No. 2 man in the history of the Pentagon, US President George W. Bush has prompted other industrialized countries to rethink that tradition.

We doubt whether much will come out of this collective soul-searching. The Europeans, too, have a stake in the post-Iraq, post-reelection thawing of transatlantic relations; they will feel needlessly provoked but, in the end, they will grit their teeth and swallow their pride.

The rest of the world, of course, has no say in the matter. To be blunt about it: beggars can't be choosers, especially when it comes to choosing the new creditor-in-chief.

But those of us who have been on the sometimes sharp end of the World Bank stick can certainly use the next few days—while Europe thinks and US allies in Asia, Latin America and the Middle East come to terms with Wolfowitz's nomination—to raise the necessary questions.

Under James Wolfensohn, the World Bank tried mightily to reckon with some of the unintended consequences of its brand of economic development. Can Wolfowitz take the next step and lead the World Bank to accept its mistakes and change some of its policies?

We ask, because the man Bush affectionately calls "Wolfie" is one of the principal architects of the US invasion of Iraq. The war was waged on non-existent grounds: there was no immediate terrorist threat from Iraq, there were no weapons of mass destruction, there was no conspiracy between Saddam Hussein's odious regime and Osama bin Laden's equally monstrous terrorist network. All of these have been confirmed many times since the invasion was launched two years ago. But have Wolfowitz and the rest of the Bush administration's war council taken the opportunity to tender their regrets or issue an apology for essentially misleading the American nation and the rest of the world?

Regrettably, no. They have all taken refuge behind the banner of democracy.

Democracy, Churchill famously said, is the worst form of government, until you consider the alternatives. Many of the alternatives in the Middle East are unsavory indeed, and like many around the world, we share the hope that democracy's meandering march will also take it through that volatile region.

But the end does not justify the means. Wolfowitz and company, however, think it does. Now that the invasion of Iraq has been belatedly rationalized as the seizing of a democratic beachhead in the Middle East, the lies and mistakes that led to the war are to be filed away and forgotten.

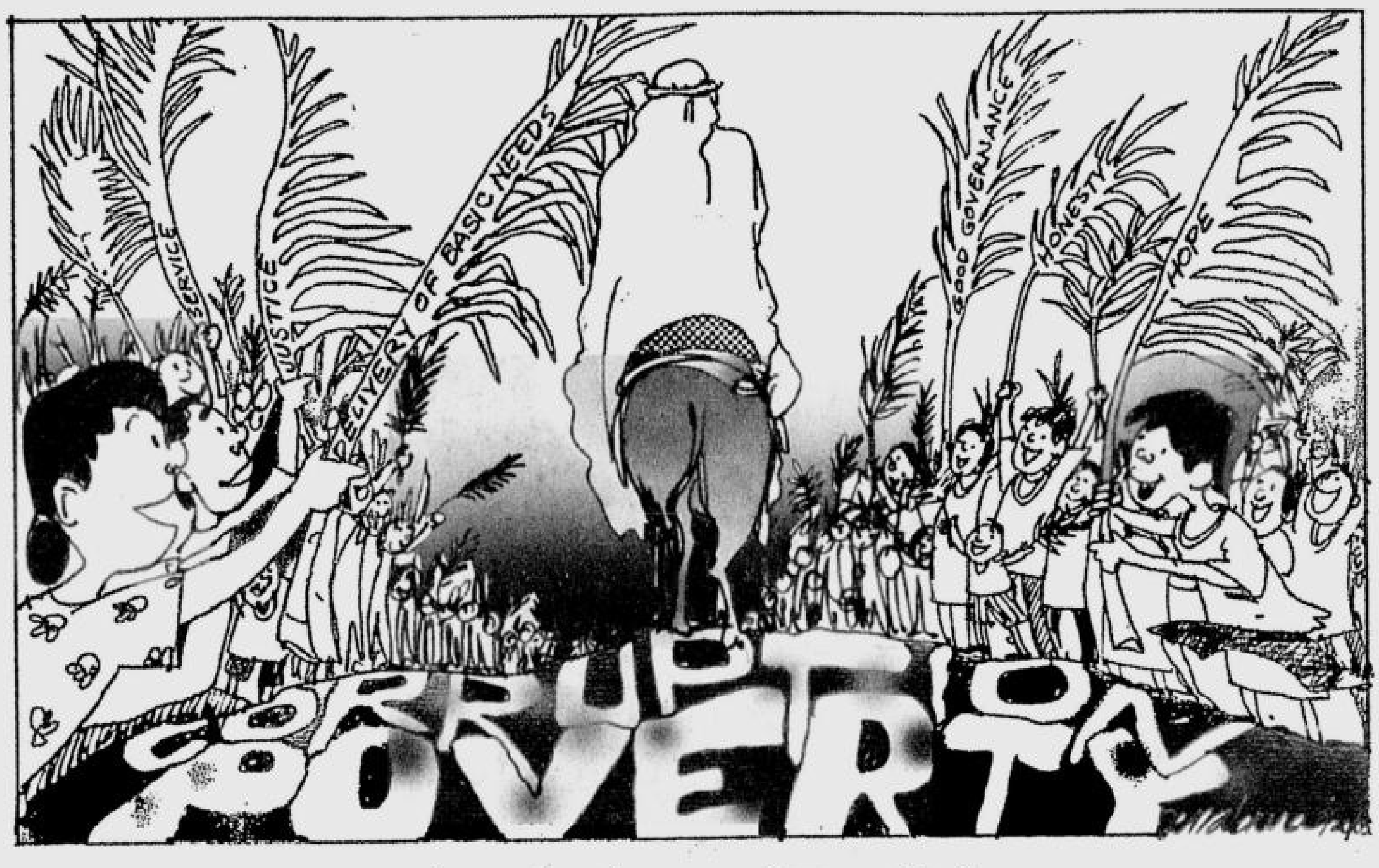
If in the face of incontrovertible evidence, Wolfowitz cannot bring himself to admit any errors in judgment, can we expect him to continue the reform of the World Bank—a process which requires him to publicly accept mistakes? It would be out of character.

We worry about his appointment then, because it might cause the return of the unyielding, we-know-what's-good-for-you arrogance of the "old" World Bank.

We also worry about his commitment to democracy, when serious money is at stake. Can Wolfowitz take the next step and lead the World Bank in the direction of debt relief?

If there is one single policy that will help struggling democracies around the world infuse new life into democratic institutions, it is debt relief. The policy will release billions of dollars into the necessary work of easing poverty, stimulating the economy, raising living standards, and investing in education. Instead of essentially working for the creditors, many of whom have already profited from the debt, developing countries around the world can finally work for their own benefit. Like democracy's rising tide, that of economic growth can lift all boats too.

But for many creditors, the real issue behind debt relief is the often-forgotten conflict between capitalism's requirements and democracy's needs. When billions of dollars are at stake, whose side will Wolfowitz be on?



The decline of English

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I WAS distressed to read a recent report in this paper that students from public elementary and secondary schools are deficient in English, Math and Science as revealed in the results of the National Achievement Test (NAT) and the High School Readiness Test (HSRT) conducted yearly by the Department of Education.

The scores of the students should be improving over the years but have remained "flat," said Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz. There has been practically no progress in developing the students' aptitudes in the subjects tested where they scored last year from 32 to 38 percent only where the passing grade is at least 60 percent.

I am not much disturbed by the students' poor showing in Math and Science as I myself have little interest or intelligence in those subjects; for example, Chemistry and Calculus had little challenge for me, nor have they proved useful or necessary for me in my chosen career. But the students' deficiency in English was something that caused me much disappointment and regret for that is a subject close to my heart and useful for my work.

There was that time when we were still under the American administration and English was the *lingua franca* in this country. The various regional groups spoke their separate native dialects—Tagalog, Ilocano, Pampango, Pangalatok, Cebuano, Ilonggo, Waray, Marawi, etc.—but all of them spoke and understood English. This was true not only of the educated people in the cities but also of the rural folk who could manage to get by with the English they learned in grade school before they devoted their full time to their farms.

Each linguistic group had its different and distinguishing pronunciation of English, but they managed to understand each other in this language better than with the different regional dialects despite their many common similarities and, yes, also sometimes humorous differences. For example, "iklog" in Pampanga is already "ibon" in Manila. A lady senator lost a lot of votes in Cebu when she promised to cut off "lagay," which means corruption in Tagalog but is more personal to Cebuanos.

Such was the popularity of English then that it soon replaced the street signs that used to be written in Spanish. "Se Alquila "became "For Rent" and "Se Vende" translated to "For Sale." Only a few of the old Spanish names have been preserved like "Ambos Mundos," "La Elegancia," and "Casa Alba," but the others have been Americanized to "Doris Day and Night Salon," "Aunt Martha's Superette," and "Lotto Play Here." Even the old "accesoria" was renamed "apartment," then promoted to "town house," and is now a pricey "condominium."

In the old Mapa High School, where I studied before the Pacific War, we had an American principal, Mrs. Sarah M. England, and excellent Filipino teachers in English composition and literature. I remember all four of them with appreciation—Mr. Tension, Mrs. Belmonte, Mrs. Manalo and Mrs. Nisperos—who taught us the beauty of the language and its English and American writers, as well as the translated works of Guy de Maupassant, Leo Tolstoy, Miguel de Cervantes, and others.

We read the classics in unabridged English not as condensed in the convenient pamphlets now available in the bookstores for those who would rather play basketball. The handy Classic Illustrated was still unknown at that time and so we had to read "The Three Musketeers" and "The Count of Monte Cristo" from the book itself. We were also familiar with Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death" speech, the tragic romance of Evangeline, and the melancholia of Edgar Allan Poe.

We were taught the art of letter-writing, which many students now probably do not know or use. Why write, when there's the cell phone or, better yet, you can text. And texting does not even require correct spelling and it's *ecr* to get to the ..*c*? *u n c r ok* but *I m nt*. I'll never get the hang of this terrible epidemic, but I'm afraid it is here to say, and will further lower the scores of the students taking the NAT and the HSRT. (That was no texting.)

I don't know how things are now with our public libraries, but during my student days they were quite popular with book lovers. They were well-stocked even with the current best sellers that we could borrow and read for free, and come back for more. I was a regular customer and used to walk from my house in Sampaloc, Manila, to the National Library at the ground floor of the old Legislative Building on P. Burgos Street. Every visit was an adventure.

I feel that student tastes have changed much since my classmates and I graduated from high school before the war broke out in 1941. We were more attracted to books then than to basketball, Superman and the Justice League, the Internet, texting, raucous music, and other modern fascinations. I am sure we would have passed those easy DepED tests with scintillating colors.

Boiling

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I READ somewhere recently that one of three persons is ugly. So, if you look at the person on your left and he or she is handsome or beautiful, *delicado ka na*. (You're in a precarious position.) If you look at the person on your right and he or she is handsome or beautiful, *may problema ka na*! (You have a problem!)

***

The Passion of Christ (Mt. 26, 14-27:66) is an account of the events that happened to Jesus from the time He said goodbye to His disciples at the last supper, till He was arrested, tortured and crucified at Calvary. Ugly is the word that best describes these last moments of Jesus. Ugly were the torturers and executioners. Ugly was the crowd. The first Good Friday was the ugliest day in the history of mankind.

***

It's Palm Sunday once again, and the Holy Week is ahead of us. So how do we make this week holy? Someone once said in jest that to make holy water you get ordinary water, and you boil the hell out of it! Holy Week is that particular time of the year when we are asked to boil all hell and ugliness out of ourselves.

***

Boiling requires time, slow cooking time. Not microwave time. You just don't approach Holy Week with a little prayer here, and a little sacrifice there, then, *presto*, all clear, all clean and feel good again. Don't go for "instant holiness," just for the Holy Week. In other words, we must make time to really reflect and really listen to God, to ourselves, to others, and to life itself this week. Allow yourself to be "boiled," to be confronted, to be questioned and even to be "crucified."

***

Boiling requires space. Not much boiling happens when you are always on the move. Not much holy boiling happens either when you are out in a beach resort or on a vacation somewhere just having a good time. Of course, you can find God anywhere this week. Just make sure you give Him space. Don't just be a *Kristiyanong bakasyonista sa Semana Santa* (a vacationing Christian this Holy Week).

***

Boiling requires some dying. Dying to oneself, that is. Dying to one's sins, for instance, and reaching out to God in humility and repentance. Dying to one's pride and reaching out to people. Dying to one's comfort zones and sharing one's blessings with the poor and the less fortunate around us.

***

Yesterday was the feast of St. Joseph. Many of us, perhaps, did not even remember or take notice of it. But that's typical of St. Joseph who always chooses silence and anonymity. Let us take a cue from him this Holy Week, and find time for silence, simplicity and anonymity. Let's forget our titles, our professions, our agenda, our deadlines, and just be.

I dare even say, forget your religious agenda of doing this and that, observing this and that, complying with this and that, just to fulfill an obligation or a tradition. You know why? Because compliance with rituals, instead of boiling us, can just harden us, giving us the sense of feeling good for having done the minimum of what is expected of us, and so we can go right on living the ugly life we are leading. Don't just be a *Kristiyanong pakita artista sa Semana Santa* (a pretending Christian).

***

This Holy Week, may we all take time to boil the hell out of our families and relationships and reach out to one another as brothers and sisters again. The passion, death, and resurrection of Christ are all about going beyond one's comfort zones to the max. Perhaps, we too can really go out of our way to destroy the walls we have made and build bridges again. May we all experience life-giving "resurrection moments" in our families and relationships especially this week.

***

As a nation, may the Lord boil the hell out of our country, which is so full of corrupt politicians and government leaders. Sad to say many of them won't be here this Holy Week; they have left for abroad already for their much needed rest. (Rest from what?) All around us, people are suffering. The pot is boiling. Let public servants be servants again. As a nation, as people, let us go back to the Lord with contrite hearts and ask Him to heal our land.

***

Join us in some holy boiling this Holy Week with our recollections at: Edsa Shrine, Holy Tuesday, 6 p.m.; St. James Church, Ayala Alabang, Holy Wednesday, 8 p.m.; AFP Theatre, Camp Aguinaldo, Holy Thursday, 9 a.m.; Good Shepherd Retreat House, Antipolo, Good Friday, 9 a.m.; Angels Hill, Tagaytay, Holy Saturday 9 a.m.; Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City, Easter Vigil 9 p.m.

***

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, boil my hard heart and give me a soft heart. Amen.

A golden opportunity

THIS coming November, the Philippines will host, for the third time, the Southeast Asian Games, an athletic event held every two years for the countries of the region. The competitions which began in 1959 were originally known as the Southeast Asian Peninsular (SEAP) Games with Vietnam, Cambodia (now known as Kampuchea), Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Malaya as founding members. The Philippines joined the Federation in 1977 along with Indonesia and Brunei Darussalam. The group has since expanded to 11 members with East Timor as its youngest participant.

* * *

In 1981, the Philippines hosted the Games for the first time. We won a total of 52 gold medals with bowling led by Paeng Nepomuceno accounting for nine of those "golds." We didn't make it as overall champions, but we won the gold in men's basketball, so I guess that was what mattered most for our people.

Ten years later, Manila again hosted the 16th SEA Games and for the first time, we came close to winning the overall championship, losing out to Indonesia on the final day of the competitions by just one gold. If Indonesia had lost to Thailand in the soccer event, we would have ended in a dead heat with our giant neighbor to the south. Peter Garrucho, then trade and industry secretary, was the chair of the Organizing Committee for the Games while the late Jose Sering was president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

To better appreciate the national euphoria generated by the fantastic showing of our athletes, one must recall that we had just experienced a string of natural calamities, which started with a major earthquake devastating parts of Central Luzon and Baguio City, followed by the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo. There was also the Ormoc disaster brought about by heavy and continuous rains in the area resulting in the loss of many lives. To make things worse, there were the lingering effects of the failed 1989 coup attempt and the increasing power failures which threatened economic recovery programs. As a result, Garrucho, now with the First Generation Holdings Corp., was being pestered by elements in the private sector advising him to move for a postponement or cancellation of the Games considering the problems faced by the nation. But President Cory Aquino stood her ground and decided to proceed with the Games.

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

It turned out to be a wise decision. We won a total of 91 gold, 61 silver and 87 bronze medals—the biggest harvest of athletic medals in the history of Philippine sports. Who were the heroes of those days? Let me mention just a few. There was Hector Begeo who won the men's 3,000-meter steeplechase; Lydia de Vega, the women's 100-meter dash; and Elma Muros, the women's 100-meter hurdles and long jump. Eric Buhain and Akiko Thompson were our golden swimmers. In golf, it was Mary Grace Estuesta who stood out, while Felix Barrientos was the star of tennis winning in singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Our boxers, shooters and cyclists won a total of 21 gold medals. (I wish I could mention all of them.)

* * *

So what are the prospects for November? Theoretically, the host nation has a number of built-in advantages. It can field any number of athletes in all sports. It can train its athletes in the very venues where the events are to be held, allowing them a degree of familiarity not enjoyed by the visiting teams. It has the hometown crowd giving its boys an important psychological edge.

In the last SEA Games held in Hanoi, Vietnam, the Vietnamese took full advantage of all these factors to post their first-ever championship in Southeast Asian athletic competitions. This for a country that had been at war for so many years, first against the French and then the Americans. To their credit, the Viets won not just because of host-country advantages. They won because they prepared well for the Games. Their athletes were disciplined and trained in an environment reminiscent of the sports development programs of the former Soviet Union and East Germany. In fact, knowledgeable sports officials, including our own Celso Dayrit, former POC president, consider Vietnam the country to beat in future SEA Games. Dayrit, in his recent book, "The Olympic Movement in the Philippines," spells out what has to be done if we are to make progress in the sports arena.

* * *

For the Philippines, there are certain sports where we stand a good chance of collecting additional golds. Archery is one such sport. It has two major divisions: one using the recurve bow, which is the traditional equipment in Olympic competition; the other is known as the compound bow and it uses pulleys and cables. Last November, the Philippines put in a request to the SEA Federation for the inclusion of the compound bow event. There has been no final decision on the matter but as a reminder to our sports officials, last February, the Philippine archery team led by Amaya Paz and Raul Arambulo won five gold medals to lead the competition in the compound bow event of the First Asian Archery Grand Prix in Bangkok. A Thai sportswriter reported that "Brilliant Amaya Paz of the Philippines showed that she could be a major force in this year's SEA Games when she helped her team sweep all the compound events in the women's category." We invest a lot of resources in training and preparing 12-16 men for a basketball team. In the end, the effort will net us only one gold medal. Perhaps we should review our goals and objectives if we are to take full advantage of a golden opportunity.

The economics of dying

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—If this piece were written in the late '60s when my mother died, the title would have been "The sociology of dying." Her wake was a quiet affair—a few prayers by the family, relatives and neighbors in our village, some of whom stayed up all night playing mahjong and cards or simply chatting and reminiscing. Occasionally, they would look over the coffin, make the sign of the cross and say a prayer or two. Some would mourn remembering how my mother had been the community's ever-present nurse, teacher or leader in many prayer sessions during funerals, baptisms, Lenten festivals or whatever occasion that needed someone to lead the prayer. She was a very respected member of our community because she was always a helping hand for other people.

Her funeral rites were likewise simple, after which we buried her under a tree in the town cemetery. We collected enough from relatives and friends to cover most of the expenses, which did not amount to much in those days.

Nearly 40 years later, my eldest sister Azucena Aquino Rilloraza dies, and it's not sociology anymore that matters but economics.

After being stricken with pneumonia at her age, everyone thought she would go in a few days. But she recovered after a tracheotomy. However, she had to stay in the Intensive Care Unit for more than two months, requiring extensive tests and round-the-clock medical care and attention. A battery of doctors attended to her—cardiologists, pulmonologists and other specialists. Special nurses also had to be hired. Expensive medication had to be purchased. X-rays and more tests had to be administered. When she got better, she was moved back to her house, where she expired after several days.

Her bill—for that extended stay in the hospital alone—reached a whopping P1.2 million! Because there is no universal health insurance in the Philippines, the whole burden solely fell on her family. Fortunately, some substantive discounts were allowed and many of the doctors, knowing the family well, waived their fees. Still, the bill came close to a million. Fortunately, the hospital allowed an installment plan for the balance after a down payment was made.

But more expenses were forthcoming. The funeral plan offered by an enterprising small business in town called Joces Funeral Homes was, according to my nieces and nephew, already reasonable considering how much they would have to do. I had no idea how elaborate the funeral arrangements were until I was wakened up one evening during the wake period, by loud music coming from a two-person band provided by Joces. It went on till the wee hours of dawn, competing with the mahjong and card players. When the vocalists got tired singing, they would play some tapes, which were plaintive and appropriate for the dead. This went on for several nights. When I inquired what the price tag would come to, it was anywhere from P80,000 to P100,000! But it was, I was informed, already a bargain considering that Joces provided wreaths with fresh flowers every morning, inspected the coffin for humidity every day, touched off my sister's attire, and so on. Then during the funeral rites in the church, Joces would provide uniformed (in *barong*) pallbearers to carry the coffin. In short, they were giving first-class service to honor my late sister.

One word about funeral homes these days. It's no longer like during my mother's time when the main thing to worry about was the coffin. I gather that this Joces company is so popular it has put out of business many of the smaller funeral firms in town. Its funeral services are now in demand all the way to the Ilocos. It was founded by two hardworking brothers. They certainly have put a flourish to a man's final moments on earth.

At this point, you are looking at an escalating bill of close to P2 million. But there's another major expense—feeding practically hundreds of people during those days and nights that the body lay in state. The going-to-market and cooking routines were without let-up. Sometimes whole pigs, goats and chickens were brought home to be slaughtered and cooked in different ways. As is customary in our culture, when somebody dies, people drop in at all hours to pay their respects and you have to give them food. I cannot second guess the day-to-day expenses for food and drinks on a continuous basis, but the last dinner alone, after the burial, came to P30,000. The church expenses amounted to some P7,200. Announcements in the press were in the thousands as well. There was also the long caravan of jeeps, cars and tricycles to ferry people to the cemetery and back to town, and the cost probably came to another P25,000. How much exactly it all cost would be impossible to calculate.

But all this shows that in our culture, we will do anything to honor our dead, whatever the cost. Not just for the sake of the dead. It also gives comfort to the living. "Let it be remembered," one of my nieces said tearfully, "that our mother had the best funeral—we took care of her until the very end. She would be very happy with what we are doing for her, even if she would have complained about the expense."

When a loved one dies, you don't think about practical matters like costs and financial burdens, as long as you can afford it. A loved one, especially at the time of death, always deserves the ultimate sacrifice on the part of the living.

Belinda A. Aquino is based at the University of Hawaii at Manoa as professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Popular religiosity

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

TODAY, Palm Sunday, marks the first day of what is perhaps the most important week in the Christian calendar. Jesus, the Messiah, enters Jerusalem on a donkey. His reputation precedes him and he is greeted by the people with branches quickly cut from nearby trees.

Being a Jew, he has come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, two important events that recall the Israelites' escape from Egyptian servitude. The Roman governors of Jerusalem are ever watchful. The Jews have long anticipated their liberation, and such feast days keep the flame of freedom alive in their hearts.

The whole world of one's faith is filled with symbols that make the events of our everyday lives meaningful. The meanings do not reside in the events themselves, but in the memory and culture of the community to which we belong. The Christian faith brought to our shores by the Spanish colonizers became the dominant religion, but it did not erase the indigenous faiths of our ancestors. The suppressed native beliefs, reconstituted in the encounter with the dominant religion and clothed in new names and forms, emerged as popular religiosity. This folk religiosity expresses the people's ironic imagination—often combining protest with piety, concealing defiance in meekness.

Christianity's own symbols are re-interpreted in the encounter. In his book "Pasyon and Revolution," the historian Reynaldo Ileto shows how the *pasyon* sung during Lent was tapped by the Katipunan to fortify the vocabulary of an incipient revolutionary movement. The religion the colonizers brought with them was thus re-contextualized and used against them by the people they sought to evangelize. In the language of semiotics, the signifiers are freed from the signified. The authors of the gospel lose control over their texts, rendering all existing meanings unstable.

Such thoughts came rushing to me the other night as I watched the early evening news on television. Seventeen dead bodies from the Camp Bagong Diwa siege were being carried in a burial procession to a common grave site. Wrapped in white sheet, the remains of the dead men, all Muslims, were being carried by members of the nearby Muslim community. As they were being lowered into the grave that had been hastily dug that morning, I noticed that the earth was littered with plastic debris of various colors and realized that the whole place had been a landfill or a garbage dump. Prayers were said, and someone raised a clenched fist in salute: "God is great!" he cried. Then the camera gently swept through the faces of the men, women and the children who were there. For one brief moment, the television screen became a mosaic of pain, fear, grief, loss, and anger.

The reporter's voice reminded listeners that these were the prisoners who had been killed in the siege after the negotiations for their peaceful surrender failed. Three of the most dreaded leaders of the Abu Sayyaf were among the dead, he said, but the rest were just ordinary Muslims facing charges for common crimes. They were killed because they happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time. The stand-off, which began after some inmates rushed and killed the jail guards serving them breakfast, lasted a day. But the clash of memory and culture that supplied all the meanings at play in that incident has been upon us for more than a hundred years.

It is ironic that "Bagong Diwa," the name of the police camp in which the jail is located, means new sense or new consciousness. The camp would have instantly earned its name if the incident had ended in a less violent way. Yet I have a feeling that Bagong Diwa will have a new meaning for the Muslims in our country from here on. Unfortunately, it is not the kind of meaning that will bridge the gap between the Moro narrative and the story of the Filipino nation. Rather, it will widen that gap even more. Long after the footage of the siege has faded, the images of the burial will likely remain fresh, occupying a secure space in the popular tales of the Moro people. That is how the Jabidah massacre became the founding moment of the Moro National Liberation Front. And the Jabidah incident was not even caught on film.

We sometimes forget that we are dealing here not with just a group of isolated and hardened bandits or terrorists who deserve to die. We are talking of a community and its memory. "The move outward toward the transformation of history and society has its source and ground in the community," writes the Jesuit theologian Michael L. Cook in his fascinating work, "Christology as narrative quest." "The most fundamental ethical-political obligation is to survive, to defend and preserve the community with its own distinctive cultural heritage."

What has this got to do with popular religiosity? "Popular religiosity is an anamnestic performance, or praxis that, in reenacting the suffering of our people, simultaneously reminds us that suffering is not the last word." There is always redemption.

Nothing perhaps is more powerful than the admixture of a religion's most precious symbols with the desires formed in the daily struggles of its adherents. The product of that encounter is what is enacted and re-enacted in popular religiosity. Priests, imams, and rabbis have no control over the meanings that are created in the process, nor, least of all, in the effects of these meanings on people's purposes and priorities. This is what makes faith a volatile element in people's lives.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Indomitable colleague

HIGH BLOOD

Ernesto P. Namin, M.D.

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

"NO man is a hero to his valet," Montaigne, a French cynic, observed. The valet knows his man up close. The greatest of them all may be a phony to the valet, but since the poor gentleman has to survive, he simply continues to kowtow until he retires, then writes a tell-all book about his former boss.

Driving a car when I first got word that Dr. Patricio Y. Tan had turned for the worse following his operation because of severe infection, I had to pull over a curb, sobbing uncontrollably. So were many others—who knew him up close—driven to bursts of tears as news spread that he would not make it. To all of us, he was bigger than life.

After 40 years of close association with him as adviser, confidant, friend and fellow medical practitioner, I can claim to have known him well, including his strengths, his shortcomings and even his hang-ups.

He belonged to the restless breed. Nothing was good enough that could not stand improvement. Most of his waking hours, he was rendering community service. He lived Matthew, Chapter 25, "Whatever you did to the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

He led, in a grand way. He shared his bounty; he passed on his gifts.

He used his own resources or placed them at risk to keep the health care delivery system in the place he served at par with most of the rest of the country. It did not bother him that many patients were unable to pay anything. In fact, he served many patients without expecting or collecting any remuneration.

As if that was not enough, he initiated programs and set up facilities for training young doctors to be good surgeons. Many of them would call him whenever they got into some difficulty about procedure, and he would sneak in the back door to help out, again, often for free. He was the father figure to his former residents (trainees) and even of practitioners of other specialties. Many Rotarians, minor public servants, colleagues and their families as well as clients of the Philippine Band of Mercy availed themselves of his surgical services gratis.

When "things" became costly, Pat took the lead in the drive to bring health care costs down. Not lacking in adversaries, he was not short on allies either. He led in improving the facilities and performance of the Bacolod Our Lady of Mercy Specialty Hospital—to make hospitalization less financially backbreaking. That effort is now bearing remarkable fruit.

In 1987, he became the first from outside Metro Manila to be appointed chair of the Philippine Board of Surgery.

Settling in Bacolod after earning his diplomate in general surgery in the United States in the early '60s, Pat struggled to make it to a relatively comfortable life, to get the children educated and to make a mark in the profession.

But he came back to a country where elections were (and still are) unusually dishonest, often violent; where corruption was always the issue against the incumbent. Some minor fall guy might have gotten the ax, which must have felt like no more than a rap on the knuckles, but major players got away scot-free.

Many in the country tried to do something about the mess, as they still try even now. There were citizens' assemblies whose members stood up to ruthless demagogues who manipulated election returns. Pat was one of their leaders. He was in the thick of political battles, not as a protagonist, but mostly to help see that the fight was fair. He never ran for elective public office himself. That way he was above suspicion, or so the thinking went. But in the volley of charges and countercharges, especially by people with their own self-interests to promote, he could not remain unscathed. His house was showered with rocks and he got the usual threats. Lesser men would have run to the sidelines for cover, but Pat chose to be unfazed. He continued to drive long distances all by himself.

His activities surely took a toll on his practice. He would be out of town and be back in a jiffy while serving as Rotary District Governor in the early '70s and as Rotary information officer for East Asia shortly thereafter. But somehow, whenever I needed him to help in a complex problem, he would manage to show up.

After Edsa I, he became the provincial chair of the National Movement for Free Elections. He represented the country in a group of international election observers to South Africa after the dismantling of apartheid and to Bulgaria after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Yes, the doctor was also a man to approach for little-known answers to questions about election laws.

Sometime in the waning years of the Marcos presidency, the province was split into two. He saw the illegality of the move and along with a group of concerned Negrenses, successfully petitioned the Supreme Court for reintegration of the province.

In the 1987 Constitution, Pat also chaired the People's Graftwatch for Region 6. Not surprisingly, he stepped on a great many toes, for which he had his share of personal lawsuits. Still, he was unruffled, even when his anti-graft campaign was ridiculed for scoring no conviction. Zero, zilch. No thanks to the labyrinthine ways of the corrupt. But Pat did blow the whistle; the authorities were mandated to diligently pursue his leads.

At the height of insurgency in the province in the late '80s, his familiar face appearing on TV jolted me twice. He was in the thick of negotiations for the release, first, of an American Peace Corps volunteer, then later of a Japanese volunteer farmworker.

For his work with the Ombudsman, he received a presidential citation for community service during the term of President Cory Aquino and, again during the Ramos presidency. The "Banwahanon" award, which he received in 1976 and which honors natives of the city, was given for his civic leadership. Perhaps, the most signal honor must have been the one from his junior colleagues who formed the Dr. Patricio Y. Tan Surgical Society. The sickening tirades of those whose attempts to defraud the people Pat frustrated should also be considered an honor.

There is a special picture of Pat showing him looking over his shoulder as if to say, "I've been called home; carry on with my work. Improve on it."

Ernesto P. Namin, M.D., 74, is a past national president of the Philippine Heart Association.

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Are we winning the war on poverty?

POVERTY incidence in the country had gone down during the first three years of the new millennium, according to the government. The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) says that poverty incidence among Filipino families dropped by about 3 percentage points from 27.5 percent in 2000 to 24.7 percent in 2003.

The decline in poverty incidence came despite an 11-percent drop in the real income of families during the three-year period.

Final results of the 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) that the National Statistics Office (NSO) released last month showed that the average family income of P145,121 in 2000 was worth only P130,594 in 2003 when adjusted for inflation.

During the period, total family income in Metro Manila, the richest region in the country, dropped by 14.7 percent.

The government decision to change the poverty lines explains the decline in poverty incidence despite the drop in real incomes.

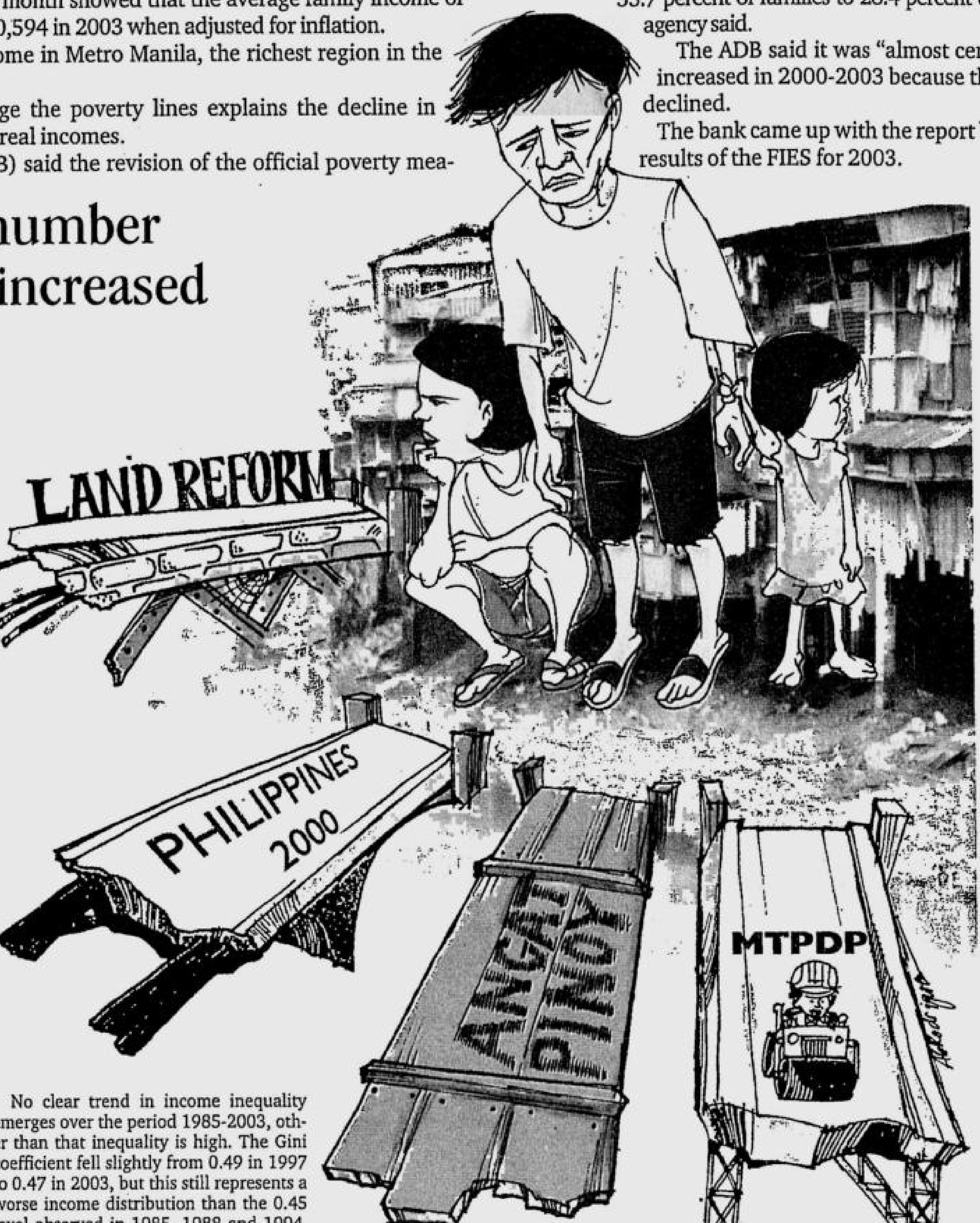
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said the revision of the official poverty measurement methodology in 2003 led to the revision of national and regional poverty figures for 1997 and 2000.

In a report "Poverty in the Philippines: Income, Assets and Access," the ADB said the poverty head counts were lower because the new poverty lines were lower.

"For example, the old national poverty threshold for 2000 was P13,823 per person per year. The new poverty threshold for 2000 is P11,605 per person per year. This difference of about $50, a difference that reduced the poverty incidence by more than 5 [percentage points] from 33.7 percent of families to 28.4 percent of families in 2000," the multilateral agency said.

The ADB said it was "almost certain" that the poverty head count increased in 2000-2003 because the real average family income had declined.

The bank came up with the report before the NSO published the final results of the FIES for 2003.



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Absolute number of poor has increased

By the Asian Development Bank

Analysis of income poverty trends in the Philippines must begin with a word of caution as a result of methodology changes over time.

Comparisons of poverty data across time cannot be made without first ensuring that the data is based on the same assumptions. There are two overlapping series, the first from 1985 to 2000 and the second from 1997 to 2003. In other words, there are two sets of poverty figures for 1997 and 2000. The new methodology resulted in lower poverty head counts, and some of the trends were changed.

For example, depending on the series, statements A and B are both correct: A. The poverty incidence of families increased from 31.8 percent to 33.7 percent between 1997 and 2000. The subsistence incidence increased by 0.5 percent, which means more hungry families. Urban poverty increased by 2 percent. (Old Methodology) B. The poverty incidence of families increased from 28.1 percent to 28.4 percent between 1997 and 2000. The subsidence incidence fell by 0.5 percent, which means fewer hungry families. There was no change in urban poverty. (New Methodology).

Under the old methodology, the magnitude of income poverty in the Philippines worsened from 1985 to 2000. The poverty incidence of families fell by 10.5 percent over the period 1985-2000, but this progress was negated by very high population growth rates of 2.36 percent per year. The poverty incidence declined, but the actual number of poor people increased substantially. There were over four million more poor people in 2000 than there were in 1985.

Sustained economic growth from 2000 to 2003 has not been pro-poor. Though the Philippines experienced sustained growth in gross domestic product (GDP) from 2000 to 2003, preliminary results of the 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey indicate a 10-percent drop in real average family incomes. Families in Metro Manila suffered an almost 20-percent drop. The total income accruing to the bottom decile of the population virtually stagnated over this period. The real average income of the bottom 30 percent contracted by about 6 percent from 2000 to 2003. Though 2003 poverty head counts have not yet been released, these signs point to an increase over 2000 poverty levels.

National figures mask substantial regional and provincial differences. The poorest regions in 2000 were the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Bicol and Central Mindanao. The poorest provinces were Sulu, Masbate and Tawi-Tawi. In the 10 poorest provinces by poverty incidence in 2000 more than half of all families were poor.

Mindanao ranks at the bottom of most poverty and social indicators. The regions with the lowest poverty incidence in 2000 were Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog. These are also the three most populous regions. With 40 percent of the national population, they contributed 20 percent of the total poor population in 2000.

Rural poverty incidence is much more pronounced than urban poverty incidence, but the number of urban poor families is increasing. The very high rural poverty incidence (47 percent of families in 2000) has remained virtually unchanged since 1988 (46.3 percent of families). The urban poverty incidence fell from 30.1 percent of families in 1988 to 19.9 percent in 2000. However, the absolute number or the magnitude of urban poor families grew by nearly 11 percent nationwide between 1997 and 2000. There are seven regions in which the number of urban poor families grew by more than 20 percent.

Income distribution in the Philippines remains beset by inequality.

No clear trend in income inequality emerges over the period 1985-2003, other than that inequality is high. The Gini coefficient fell slightly from 0.49 in 1997 to 0.47 in 2003, but this still represents a worse income distribution than the 0.45 level observed in 1985, 1988 and 1994. With many people toward the bottom of the income distribution, a small change in the way poverty is measured has major implications for the population identified as poor.

Poverty measured using the international poverty line of $1 per day has been falling steadily. In 1990 the proportion of the Philippine population living on less than $1 per day purchasing power parity (PPP) was 18.3 percent.

By 2003 this head count had fallen to 11.1 percent. The proportion of the population living on less than $2 per day was a great deal higher, at 44.1 percent in 2003. The international poverty line is sometimes misreported in the Philippine press (as it is elsewhere) as the current equivalent of $1 per day. Such a poverty line would result in a far higher poverty incidence (about 45 percent of the population in 2000). In 2003 the PPP exchange rate for $1 was P12.30, up from P11.20 in 2000 and P9.25 in 1997.

Official poverty lines have not kept pace with inflation. Poverty lines have been worth less and less in real terms since the mid-1980s. The poverty line in 1988 was P4,777 per person per year, the equivalent of P14,136 in 2000 (using the Consumer Price Index). The poverty line in 2000 was only P11,605 per person per year. Another important methodology issue is that urban poverty is likely to be underestimated: official surveys exclude those without official and permanent residence. Many urban poor families live in informal settlements and squatter areas.

The proportion of Filipino families that rate themselves as poor is a great deal higher than the official poverty incidence. Based on a Social Weather Stations (SWS) nationwide survey of subjective poverty, nearly two-thirds of families (62 percent) rated themselves as poor in September 2003. The average subjective poverty threshold indicated by families with five members who felt they were poor was P9,466 per month. In contrast, the official poverty threshold for a family of five for the year 2002 was P4,961 per month. SWS also conducts hunger surveys. In September 2004 the self-rated hunger incidence was 15.7 percent.

Income poverty in the country is a dynamic phenomenon: people move in and out of poverty over time. A first attempt to gauge chronic and transient poverty found that over a three-year period about one-fifth of the surveyed households were chronically poor (e.g., they were poor in each of three observations), whereas nearly one third of the households moved into and out of poverty during the period. Transient poverty can be addressed through improved social safety nets that cushion families against temporary shocks. Examples include conditional cash transfers and labor-intensive public works programs.

Poverty is a deprivation of essential assets that include but go beyond income. Access to various assets helps to reduce vulnerability and to keep people out of poverty. Five essential assets are human capital, physical capital, natural capital, financial capital and social capital. Access poverty is a major problem in the Philippines.

Human Capital. The most important human capital investments in the Philippines are in health and education. Three main challenges persist in the Philippine education system: declining participation rates, poor quality of education and low cohort survival rates. For every 100 children in the Philippines who start Grade 1, only 67 will complete elementary schooling. This rate is even lower for the poor. In ARMM, for every 100 children who start elementary school only 34 finish.

Health challenges in the Philippines include high maternal mortality rates, a very high incidence of tuberculosis—ranked eighth in the world by the World Health Organization—and poor quality and inaccessibility of public health care services. Private health care is prohibitively expensive for the poor and access is a major issue as a result of urban bias.

Physical Capital. Problems in access to physical capital include water, housing and infrastructure issues. Only 70 percent of the poorest households have access to safe drinking water. Housing the poor is a major challenge, particularly in urban areas.

Government housing assistance programs have barely reached the poor for a variety of reasons that include lack of information on assistance programs and how to access them, eligibility requirements that discriminate against the poor, and an emphasis on mortgage finance as the primary form of housing assistance. Infrastructure investments can impact positively on the welfare of the poor. Rural roads can be especially beneficial, providing access to services (such as health and education), improving market access and reducing transaction costs.

Natural Capital. In rural areas, access to land is one of the main determinants of welfare. Land reform beneficiaries have been found to have not only higher income and lower poverty rates than non-beneficiaries, but they also fare better in terms of other indicators. The environment is another important form of natural capital.

Poor environmental conditions adversely affect human capital, growth and distributional equity. One researcher adjusted Philippine poverty statistics by factoring in the consequences of environmental damage, finding that the amount of poverty reduction has been overstated.

In the Philippines, forest cover have been reduced to less than one-fifth of total land area. Logging, mining and encroachment of settlements in critical watersheds are all to blame. Carbon dioxide emissions are on the rise, and urban air quality in particular is very poor. The rich biodiversity in the Philippines is severely endangered: Conservation International ranks the country as one of the five hottest "hotspots" on the planet, i.e., one of the most threatened areas on earth.

Financial Capital. The poorest are unable to save, so access to credit and remittances become important areas of financial capital. Research shows that despite high and growing levels of remittances in the country, the poorest are largely excluded from the benefits of overseas migration. While a significant proportion of families report that income from abroad is their main source of income, these families are mainly based in urban areas.

The poorest are largely rural. Families from higher income groups receive a larger share of their incomes from abroad than do lower income groups. International migration and remittances may actually exacerbate inequality problem in the Philippines.

Social Capital. Social capital comprises the social resources on which people are able to draw, through networks and connectedness and relationships of trust and reciprocity. Social capital is the foundation for informal safety nets among the poor.

One way to foster social capital in the Philippines is to promote increased participation in development processes through membership in local and community organizations. In 2002, 26 percent of families had at least one member involved in a people's or a nongovernment organization.

Poverty mapping at the local level is a useful tool for determining access poverty and designing relevant interventions. A community-based monitoring system (CBMS) collects relevant, timely, and local access poverty indicators. In April 2003 the Department of Interior and Local Government prescribed that local government units (LGUs) collect 13 survival, security and enabling indicators on an annual basis.

These indicators gauge access to education, health and other vital services. CBMS data allow for detailed poverty mapping at the local level, a technique that has been shown to greatly improve local communities' and policymakers' understanding of poverty issues.

Based on participatory methods, it furthermore allows for precise targeting of interventions based on knowledge of the specific determinants of access poverty at the household level. Other poverty mapping initiatives have been initiated by the Peace Equity Foundation and the National Statistical Coordination Board.

The major causes of poverty in the Philippines fall into seven broad categories: (i) weak macroeconomic management; (ii) employment issues; (iii) high population growth rates; (iv) an underperforming agricultural sector and an unfinished land reform agenda; (v) governance issues including corruption and a weak state; (vi) conflict and security issues, particularly in Mindanao; and (vii) disability.

Successive governments since 1985 have attached a high priority to poverty reduction, but have had only moderate success in reducing the overall head count and outright failure in reducing the absolute number of poor Filipinos. Targeting has been a key problem as have issues of budget, governance and LGU capacity (particularly in the context of decentralization, initiated with the 1991 Local Government Code). The tendency to derail old programs and to launch new ones with each new president has resulted in duplication of efforts, wasted resources and a continuous state of transition.

The 2004-2010 Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan contains ambitious poverty reduction targets. The stated goal is to reduce the poverty incidence of families from 28.4 percent in 2000 to 17.9 percent in 2010. Similarly, the subsistence incidence of families is intended to drop from 13.10 percent in 2000 to 8.98 percent in 2010.

The MTPDP document states that the poverty targets assume a reduction in the population growth rate to an average of 1.93 percent per year for the period 2005-2010. However, it does not articulate a clear population policy.

This country poverty analysis is a call to action. The number of poor people in the Philippines is increasing. Average family incomes are falling despite growth in GDP.

Future poverty reduction will require a broad, multidimensional focus on income and access poverty and on their broad causes.

(This is a condensed version of the ADB report "Poverty in the Philippines: Income, Assets and Access," which the bank released in February.)

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Mayor says Palawan fish kill caused by planktons

FISH harvested in Palawan is safe, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources regional office, and the fish kill that recently hit three villages in the province's capital was not caused by toxic elements.

The fish kill that hit the villages of Bagongbayan, Napsan and Simpocan in Puerto Princesa was caused by the depletion of oxygen, which scientists call anoxia, in deeper waters and near shores, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn said yesterday.

In a statement he sent to the INQUIRER to explain the fish kill, Hagedorn said "the condition caused fish and other marine animals living in these areas to suffocate."

"This conclusion is solidly based on dissolved oxygen measurements made by the composite team headed by BFAR," he said.

"Readings from a monitoring setup in Barangay Bagongbayan showed that the dissolved oxygen levels had dropped to 2.08 mg/liter in that area," the mayor said.

Anoxia, he said, "is often caused, as it was in this case, by blooms of tiny marine plants."

"Weather factors, such as wind direction and strength, and temperature, play a major role by providing favorable conditions under which blooms can develop and persist," he said.

Tests showed that phytoplanktons such as alexandrium and nootiluce santinale were present in the waters during the fish kill.

They color the water red and brown and produce oxygen in the day and take up oxygen from the water in the night, said the mayor.

"This is reflected in daily tests of dissolved oxygen levels, increasing during the day, dropping off during the night and at their lowest in the early morning hours," Hagedorn said.

"Oxygen production drops and phytoplanktons begin to die. The decay uses up more oxygen as decomposing bacteria break down the dead phytoplankton. The result can be, as it was here, a very rapid depletion of oxygen," he said, quoting the UP Marine Science Institute report prepared by Rhodora Aranza.

The fish kill was reported on March 11 by the provincial fisheries office of Palawan.

The types of fish found floating in the waters of the three towns included suno, parrotfish, chinese emperor, and suran. Moray eels were also seen floating but not in the same numbers as the other fish.

"Reports from local officials and residents said that fish could be seen gulping for air at the surface before they die," said Hagedorn.

"Along the shore, many noted foul smell associated with hydrogen sulfide being produced by sediment chemistry and bacterial processes."

'Lumad' group denounces move to open up Mt. Apo

KIDAPAWAN CITY—A lumad group assailed a recent decision by the government-led Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) to lift the five-year ban on climbing Mt. Apo.

Datu Teodoro Bangcas, chair of the council of elders of the Manobo-Apao Descendants Ancestral Domain of Mt. Apo (Madadma), said that as "owners" of Mt. Apo, they were not given importance because they were never consulted before the decision was arrived at.

"This has to be discussed between and among us—you as representatives of the government and us as rightful owners of Mt. Apo," Bangcas said.

Earlier, PAMB said it was lifting the closure order, which was brought about by the degradation of the country's highest peak.

The order came days ahead of the Holy Week, when climbers choose Mt. Apo as their destination.

Bangcas said they felt insulted and "bypassed by the PAMB decision to reopen our mountain."

"The mountaineers will pass by our land… the lands that we consider holy. Our own, our domain," he said.

Bangcas' group claims at least 3,177 hectares of Mt. Apo, including the villages of Ilomovis and Balabag here and Barangay Bobbong and Kawayan in Magpet town under a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title issued by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples on Feb. 14, 2004.

The original Certificate of Title was signed by Reuben Dasay Lingating, NCIP chair.

"Our ancestral domain and other customary rights and interests should be recognized in the protected area," Bangcas said in reference to the National Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.

"A lot of laws had been created but we are asking the government, including the PAMB, to also respect us before doing things that may affect us," he said.

Bangcas said what PAMB should have done was to secure a Free Prior Informed Consent from them before it lifted the ban.

"The issue has already been resolved," a PAMB official said, adding that Mt. Apo would be opened only from March to April.

The official said the decision was reached after a meeting of the stakeholders in January.

He said that in order for the trails to be opened, the PAMB laid down certain conditions, which included clean-up drives and an assessment of the carrying capacity of the trails and the campsite.

Ermelo Libre Jr., Mt. Apo Foundation Incorporated executive director, said it was necessary to determine the carrying capacity of the trails and the campsite to determine the number of people that can be accommodated. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 killed in gold robbery

LUCENA CITY—Two persons were killed and three others were seriously wounded after five unidentified bonnet-wearing suspects shot them while robbing a gold refinery plant in Barangay Bulo, Buenavista, Quezon, 250 km south of Manila, late Friday evening.

Insp. Romy Uy, Buenavista police station chief, identified the victims as Rodolfo Fontanilla and Onofre Parafina, both customers of the residual gold refinery plant owned by one Ben Uri and some three kilometers from the poblacion.

Uy said at least five armed suspects barged into the plant premises at around 10 p.m and, without any provocation, fired their guns at everyone inside the plant.

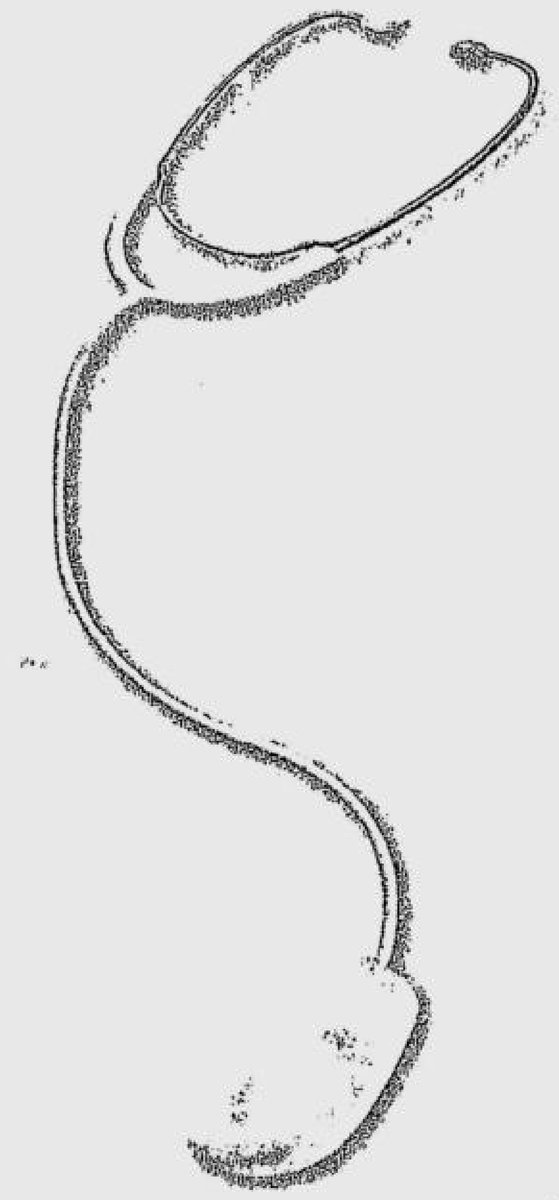
Fontanilla and Parafina died from several fatal wounds in different parts of the body.

Seriously wounded in the shooting were Arnel Matabuena, Vergilio Dapusin and Joselito Villagen, the plant chemist, Uy said in a mobile phone interview.

After the shooting, the robbers forced open and ransacked the vault inside the office that contained P15,000, several pieces of jewelry and still undetermined volume of gold.

Police and soldiers tried to pursue the suspects.

Certain areas of Bulo and neighboring villages are hosts to lucrative small-scale mining operations that serve as one of the prime sources of livelihood of majority of the residents. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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Town execs launch big plans for Hundred Islands

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALAMINOS CITY—Officials of this western Pangasinan city want to give the Hundred Islands National Park, the first national park declared by the government in 1940, the recognition it deserves.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said the recent transfer of the management of the HINP from the Philippine Tourism Authority to the city government would pave the way for the city's vision of developing the park into a world-class tourism destination.

"[Our vision is to] develop Alaminos as the City of the Hundred Islands [and make] it the center of tourism in Northern Luzon," Braganza said.

He added that part of his vision was to transform the area into a perfect investment hub, open more job opportunities and at the same time preserve its marine ecosystem.

On Friday, Braganza, PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor signed a memorandum of agreement on the transfer of management of the HINP.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to sign an executive order to formalize the transfer, local officials said.

Braganza said the city wanted to develop the HINP in an environmentally sustainable approach.

A document outlining the city's vision for HINP said Alaminos wanted to promote eco-tourism on the islands in a family-oriented way while protecting and sustaining the park as a marine reserve.

It said part of the plan was to "establish a zoning plan and a marine sanctuary, and to develop a marine institute [in the city] to educate and create awareness for the environment and the HINP."

Braganza said the transfer of the islands' management was based on Republic Act 9025, which converted Alaminos into a component city of Pangasinan. The law identified the Lucap Bay and Marine Reserve as within the jurisdiction of the city.

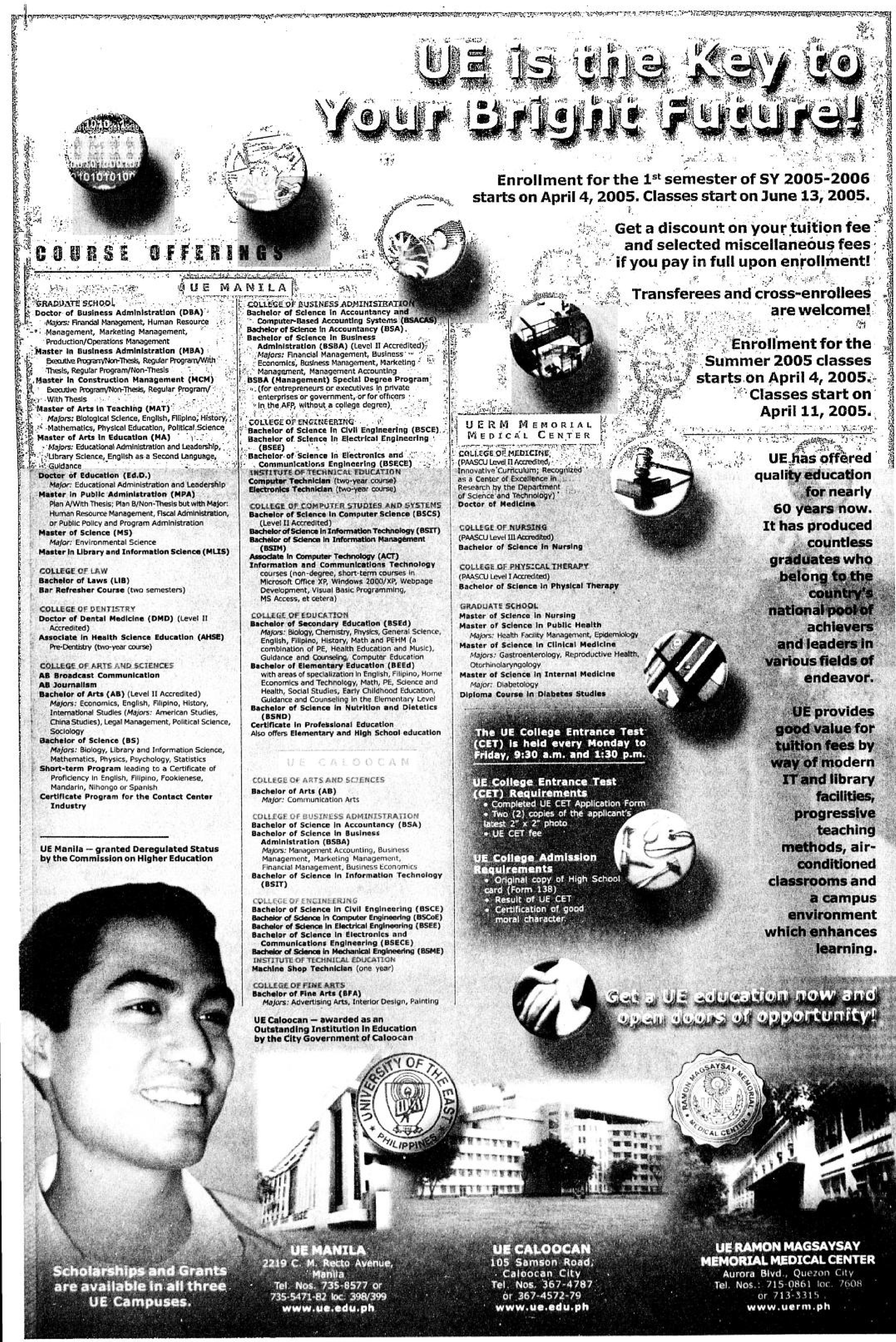
Once the transfer is formalized, the city government will have full control of the awarding and regulation of all activities and concessions in the park, as well as the Lucap Bay and its foreshore area, Braganza said.

But he said the HINP will not be the sole responsibility of the city as the PTA and the Department of Tourism will continue to provide support.

The use of the park will be limited to recreation and tourism-related activities, but all revenues and collections generated from its operation will be used solely for its maintenance, operation and development, Braganza said.

MAYOR Hernani Braganza, PTA chief Dean Barbers and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor chat on the shore of the Lingayen Gulf after signing a pact on the Hundred Islands.

JOAN BONDOC



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Benaldo said he learned that Cepalco has already reflected the discount in the March bill it sent out to consumers. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Town execs launch big plans for Hundred Islands

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ALAMINOS CITY—Officials of this western Pangasinan city want to give the Hundred Islands National Park, the first national park declared by the government in 1940, the recognition it deserves.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said the recent transfer of the management of the HINP from the Philippine Tourism Authority to the city government would pave the way for the city's vision of developing the park into a world-class tourism destination.

"[Our vision is to] develop Alaminos as the City of the Hundred Islands [and make] it the center of tourism in Northern Luzon," Braganza said.

He added that part of his vision was to transform the area into a perfect investment hub, open more job opportunities and at the same time preserve its marine ecosystem.

On Friday, Braganza, PTA general manager Robert Dean Barbers and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor signed a memorandum of agreement on the transfer of management of the HINP.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to sign an executive order to formalize the transfer, local officials said.

Braganza said the city wanted to develop the HINP in an environmentally sustainable approach.

A document outlining the city's vision for HINP said Alaminos wanted to promote eco-tourism on the islands in a family-oriented way while protecting and sustaining the park as a marine reserve.

It said part of the plan was to "establish a zoning plan and a marine sanctuary, and to develop a marine institute [in the city] to educate and create awareness for the environment and the HINP."

Braganza said the transfer of the islands' management was based on Republic Act 9025, which converted Alaminos into a component city of Pangasinan. The law identified the Lucap Bay and Marine Reserve as within the jurisdiction of the city.

Once the transfer is formalized, the city government will have full control of the awarding and regulation of all activities and concessions in the park, as well as the Lucap Bay and its foreshore area, Braganza said.

But he said the HINP will not be the sole responsibility of the city as the PTA and the Department of Tourism will continue to provide support.

The use of the park will be limited to recreation and tourism-related activities, but all revenues and collections generated from its operation will be used solely for its maintenance, operation and development, Braganza said.

MAYOR Hernani Braganza, PTA chief Dean Barbers and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor chat on the shore of the Lingayen Gulf after signing a pact on the Hundred Islands.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Disturbing the peace in the zone

VILLAGERS gather to assert their demand to free their village of the military.

COURTESY OF GRASSROOTS PEACE LEARNING CENTER

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Tulunan, North Cotabato

PEOPLE of Alimodian in Tulunan, North Cotabato, call their village "Pison" (steamroller). But the place has nothing to do with construction or heavy equipment. Alimodian is a peace zone.

But what the villagers treasured for 13 years, after Alimodian was declared a peace zone, could be rolled over after all.

They are afraid that their quiet nights are now over. Recently, they were overwhelmed by anxiety when Army soldiers from the 38th Infantry Battalion came and established a detachment.

Gloria Campano, secretary of the Alimodian Peace Zone Council, may be counting too much on the fact that their village is a peace zone, meaning no armed person or group, either from the government and the communist New People's Army (NPA), is allowed to enter.

Campano said the presence of the military and its structure, located within the one-kilometer radius of the populated area and designed to intimidate the rebels, manifested grave disrespect to the provisions of the peace zone declaration.

"For many long years, we had lived in almost perfect peace. Now, we are afraid that the 13 years of beautiful life will be snatched from us," she said.

Offenses

During the period, only two incidents that offended, if not desecrated, the declaration happened.

On March 23, 2003, the village chair of Bacung was gunned down in Alimodian by suspected NPA assassins. More than a year later, at least 10 soldiers were alleged to have forcibly entered the house of a resident, Jessie Capasgurdo, whose nephew was slain NPA leader Kumander Robert. Capasgurdo said the suspects were looking for the rebel, who was buried that morning.

"The detachment invites trouble," said Teresita Paca, vice chair of the peace zone council.

"We are afraid of being caught in the crossfire between the government and the rebels," she said, adding that many of the residents were now afraid to go to their farms.

"The possibility of encounters is not remote. We have all the reasons to be afraid as we already had them 13 years ago. Besides, we don't really know what the two groups are thinking ... all we know is that we are afraid and we have all the reasons to be afraid," Paca said.

Dialogue

In a consultation-dialogue with military officials in Alimodian recently, the residents declared their opposition to the military presence.

Lt. Sigfred Tayaban tried to persuade them to agree to the setting up of the detachment, saying the military was the "legitimate protector of the people."

An official of the barangay council said the detachment was just temporary, but Campano said "they (soldiers) really have to leave the area."

Tayaban said they first constructed the detachment in Sitio Salvan in Tuburan, a neighboring village. The sitio, he said, was marked red, meaning it's an NPA area.

"We moved out because the residents of Alimodian who were farming near Salvan were no longer tending to their farmland because they were afraid," he said.

The order to build the detachment, Tayaban said, came from Army headquarters in order to stop the alleged extortion activities in Tuburan by communist rebels.

Boundary issue

Confronted by the people's opposition, Tayaban agreed to move their post out of the peace zone only if the boundary between Alimodian and Tuburan was defined. Both parties agreed to conduct a ground survey to resolve the issue.

Just like the others in Tulunan, the Alimodian peace zone was declared when the residents asserted their right to live safely in their own village.

In the 1980s, Alimodian was a battleground of government soldiers and NPA guerrillas.

"Before we declared this village a peace zone, there was a huge encounter nearby and some residents of the other villages fled here for safety ... there were many children and women ... all of us crying," Campano said.

For many years, 135 families from the villages of Bituan, Lampagan and Alimodian stayed in an elementary school in Sitio Banayal because of the heavy fighting.

When the battle ended, the three villages were declared peace zones.

"We were already tired of hearing gunfire and running out of fear, so we insisted on declaring this place a peace zone," Campano said.

"We just hope that we will be respected ... we just hope," she added.

An award-winning model for organic farming

By Anthony S. Allada
Bansalan, Davao del Sur

LOOKING at the rows and rows of sturdy fruit trees, it is difficult to imagine that not too long ago, this land in Bansalan, Davao del Sur, was once barren and idle.

Today, the five-hectare piece of real estate has become a model and testament to the viability of organic farming. Durian, rambutan, mangosteen, seedless lanzones and other fruit-bearing trees grow abundantly. Complementing the harvests are the growing stock of farm animals that do not require much tending or elaborate technology to breed.

Six years ago, Lao Integrated Farm in Barangay Eman, 9 km from the town proper, was a field of coconut trees that did not yield nuts as much as it should. It had remained unattended for years.

Benjamin Lao, the new regional alien control officer of the Bureau of Immigration, inherited the property from his parents and slowly turned things around, spending his spare time and weekends there.

Nurturing

Born to parents who owned vast tracts of land in the province, Lao learned early in his childhood how to appreciate farming. The fifth of eight siblings, he saw how farmers valued the land they tilled and how one could live comfortably through farming.

After he acquired his parcel, Lao immediately poured all his efforts into making it productive. By then, he had read a number of books and success stories on farming.

He was impressed by the 19-hectare demonstration center of the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center (MBRLC), popularly known as Mt. Carmel in Bansalan. He made the facility his development model.

The MBRLC, a nonprofit, private development organization with public concern, has developed the Sloping Agricultural and Technology (Salt) and its modifications, Food Always In The Home (Faith) gardening, and other sustainable farming schemes.

It conducts training on community development, extension strategies and techniques, primary health care and moral values.

Model

Among its objectives is research and developing appropriate farming technologies, systems, crops and livestock that will help farmers increase and sustain production and thus earn more.

For his farm, Lao adopted Salt 1, the Simple Agro-Livestock Technology (Salt 2), fruit trees production, and technologies from other MBRLC researches.

In six years, Lao Integrated Farm has contour farming of legumes, durian, rambutan and mangosteen trees, and close to 100 goats of Anglo-Nubian and Boer types raised in a structure made of nipa and bamboo.

Lao first planted 700 durian trees of different varieties, followed by rambutan, mangosteen, lanzones, passion fruit and peanuts. Six workers oversee the day-to-day operations of the farm.

The slope areas were planted to legumes to control soil erosion and produce nitrogen. The plants' leaves serve as food for the goats.

Integrated farming

Feeds have become supplementary to the six-feeding-per-day of the animals as legumes and other grass species are the main food.

Lao started with only eight goats. After three years, the number reached almost 100. He sells 6-8-month-old goats for P4,000 to P5,000 each.

Animal wastes are collected and dried and converted into main fertilizers for the fruit-bearing trees.

Lao said his farm was a classic example of how to protect the environment by using organic substances instead of chemicals. It has received the Gawad Saka Award of the municipal agriculture office and provincial agriculture office for its practice of integrated farming system.

"Government service is never a hindrance to engage in other income-generating activities like farming," Lao said.

PLAYING with his raised goats is one of Benjamin's various activities when he visits his "model" farm.

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Lay Catholics read Bible in original Greek, Hebrew

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But Sonia Sia, a physician, and Restituto Adoremus, an accountant, can read the same passages in Hebrew and Greek, respectively.

Sia can read the Psalms in Biblical Hebrew, the original language the books of the Old Testament were written.

Adoremus, on the other hand, can read the passion of Christ in Biblical Greek, the most popular language in the time of Jesus.

Sia and Adoremus yesterday received their certificates of completion of a two-year program called Pastoral Biblical Studies (PBS) at the Claret Pastoral Bible Center (PBC) in Quezon City.

Sia studied Hebrew at the PBC, while Adoremus studied Biblical Greek at the Loyola School of Theology at the Ateneo University.

That there are people like Sia and Adoremus taking courses on Bible Studies and Biblical languages indicate a growing interest among lay Catholics (those who do not belong to religious orders or congregations) to study the Bible.

Not just blind faith

"This is an exciting and significant development," said Fr. Alejandro Gobrin, the director of Claret PBC, a pastoral endeavor of the Claretian Missionaries of the Philippines and its lay partners.

"It's good that there's a renewed interest in the Bible. A lot of people are critical and ask a lot of questions about their faith and the Bible," Gobrin said.

He said many Catholics are searching on their own. "They are no longer content with just listening to the priest's homily during Mass. I admit it's not really enough. As a priest, I know that I can only say so much in five minutes."

GRADUATION rites with a thanksgiving Mass are held on Saturday for students of the Pastoral Biblical Studies program at the Claret Bible Center, Diliman, Quezon City. RAFFY LERMA

For Sia, the study of the Bible was fascinating.

Fascinating reading

"Reading the scriptures is like looking at a painting. When you study it more, when you know the context of the word, the literal meaning of the word, the culture, the history, the geography plus a bit of theology, you'll have more depth in your understanding," she said.

As a freshman taking PBS, she was introduced to the Old and New Testaments and their overall historical, cultural and theological frameworks.

In her second year, she studied exegetical exercises using selected texts in the Bible.

Exegesis is a tool of scientific study used by Bible scholars which interprets text from its literary and historical context.

For Adoremus, Biblical exegesis and his knowledge of Greek allowed him to delve deeper into the minds and hearts of the sacred writers.

"Now I can understand why a certain version of the Bible is reported to have over 2,000 errors in translation," he said.

More meaningful

Michael Lapid, who works in Pampanga and drives all the way to Quezon City to attend classes, just finished his first year of PBS.

"It has been very helpful for me. I wanted to know more about God's word and become a better facilitator in my church work," he said.

Lapid, a cousin of Sen. Lito Lapid, is active in the Basic Ecclesiastic Community in his parish in Guagua, Pampanga. He is currently organizing a 10-session Bible study there which he is targetting for 30-50 participants.

It is for lay workers like Lapid that the PBS was conceived in 2001.

Neglect in Bible reading

In 2001, soon after his arrival from Rome where Gobrin obtained his masters degree and licentiate in theology at the Angelicum University, he conducted studies and seminars on the Bible among lay workers, catechists, religion and Christian Living Education teachers.

Gobrin made two discoveries: "The lay workers were not well-informed about the Bible and two, there was no training program for them since there were only a few biblical scholars in the Philippines involved in lay formation."

The lack of information about the Bible among lay workers and catechists reflected what had long-been observed about the general Filipino Catholic population: Most do not read the Bible on their own.

Most of them read the Bible at Mass during the Gospel and mostly from the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—the first four books in the New Testament.

Technically, it's even not reading, but hearing, as the reading is done by the priest, the celebrant of the Mass.

The reason for this could be cultural. "Ours is not a reading culture," Gobrin said.

More work

The PBC serves as an "institute" for organized formation program for lay leaders, catechists, religion and Christian Living Education teachers.

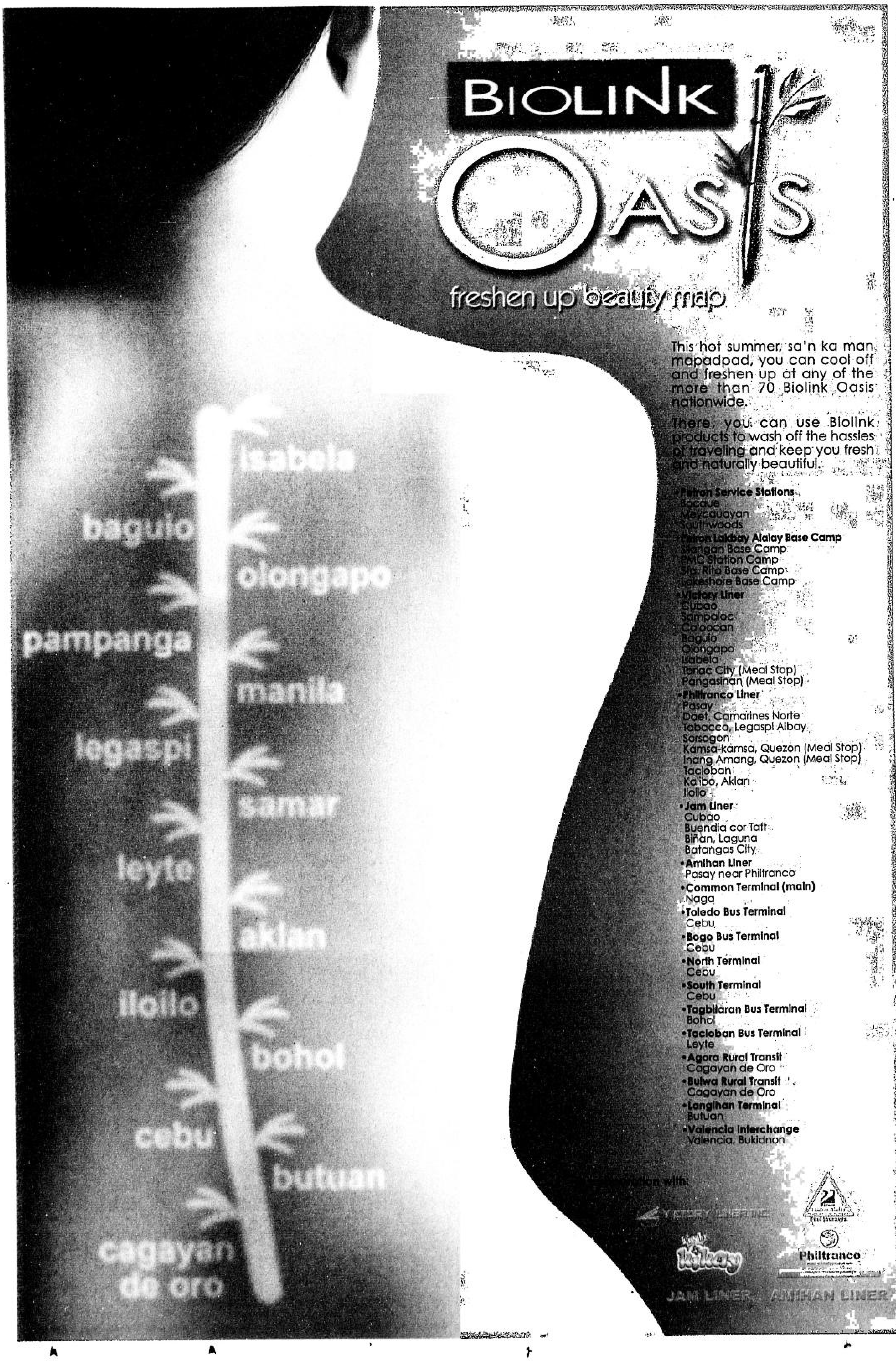
In addition to its two-year basic PBS program, the center will soon offer a third year course for the thematic study of the Bible and a fourth year course on pedagogy or how to impart biblical studies for different levels—from the grassroots to the intellectuals.

There's still a lot of work to be done to improve the state of learning about the Bible in the Philippines.

But this work should not be left to the parish priests, Gobrin said.

Hope lies in lay leaders

"Our parishes are big. There are so many people, so many problems that a parish priest has to attend to. We cannot expect them to give attention to formation programs which are crucial and difficult," he said. "Our real hope is in the lay leaders and for them to avail of the opportunities to learn about the Bible."



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Silliman U grad wins . . .

From page A1

who is completing his doctoral studies in Marine Biology, said in a text message to this reporter.

He had reason to be. After all, most of the venture capitalists from Silicon Valley who judged the contest were on the lookout for inventions in information technology, semiconductors and biomedicine.

The predominantly Caucasian panel decided the winners based on whether they thought the projects presented during the competition were worth investing in or not.

Industry insiders and academic observers regard the University of San Francisco competition as the premier event for judging technology ventures.

The judges were executives from numerous companies and investment firms, including Bill Campbell, chair of the Board of Intuit; Ann Winblad, co-founder of Hummer Winblad; Mike McGraw, chief operating officer of Pacific Specialty Insurance; The Wall Street Journal; and partners Nokia Ventures, Draper Fisher Jurvetson, El Dorado Ventures, Skyline Ventures, Globespan Capital Partners, Garage Technology Ventures, Capstone Ventures, Pacific Growth Equities, Crosslink Capital, East Peak Advisors, CKS Partners, Onset Ventures, Alta Partners, Mayfield Ventures, Blueprint Ventures, Crescendo Ventures and DeNovo Ventures.

"There was just one problem," Comandante thought. "Caucasians are not fond of live fish."

Then he made the fish go to sleep.

150 entries

Comandante was among 20 semifinalists who competed for the top prizes.

His technology was chosen from more than 150 entries submitted by over 100 universities from 18 countries.

But the race to the top was the most gruelling of all, Comandante recalled.

The first round consisted of making a so-called 90-second "elevator pitch"—each contestant was made to explain his project in the length of time it would take one to climb a building in an elevator.

In the second round, or semifinals, contestants were divided into four groups of five each.

Wake up, fish

In both the second and the final rounds, Comandante showed the sleeping fish being awakened when placed in a water-filled plastic bag.

"They couldn't believe their eyes!" he said.

Judges marveled at the technology since it was not based on anything currently existing, Comandante said.

His problem lay in the fact that US venture capitalists were not ready to invest in the technology.

In any case, Comandante hopes to present the plaque he won to President Macapagal-Arroyo after his return to the Philippines next week.

Beating the odds

"I feel very happy and accomplished. Winning against the odds is great!" he said.

With the prize money, Comandante said he would help the alumni of the Oriental Negros Innovation Awards focus on developing their businesses.

"Garnering the award proves that there is a good prospect for the technology in the United States and throughout the world," said Comandante, who consulted patent lawyers in the United States after the contest.

Since winning the grand prize in the Oriental Negros Innovation Awards last year, Comandante had been receiving offers for business partnerships from all over the world. His company, Buhi Marine Worldwide Supply Inc., has been joined by investors from Negros Oriental, Japan and Australia and is now called the Buhi International Group (BIG), a P5 million company.

Experiments paid off

Comandante accidentally discovered the technology of putting fish to sleep without water in 1987 when, as a young scientist, he experimented on the sex reversal of groupers in Palawan.

He kept the technology to himself until he could scientifically repeat it, presenting it as his thesis for his master's degree in Coastal Resources Management at Silliman University in 2003.

Comandante said his technology had helped Filipino fish traders export live fish to Japan, Taiwan, China and other countries, at a more competitive price.

"Water accounts for 75 percent of the shipment cost so if that is eliminated, our fish producers could make it big in the international market," he said.

Boys' rites of passage . . .

From page A1

cision done on *Sabado de Gloria* (Black Saturday) because according to traditional beliefs, it would be less bloody than having it done on Good Friday, according to Dextex Gonzales, a government official and community leader.

According to local folklore, God suffered and died on Good Friday and parents wouldn't want that experience replicated during their sons' circumcision.

"God is already alive on Black Saturday, so it would be less bloody," Gonzales explained his town's beliefs.

In combined Filipino and English, Gonzales shared with the INQUIRER his experiences about this summer rite of passage.

Cleaning procedure

"Early morning of *Sabado de Gloria*, between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., the boys clean themselves up by taking a bath. Together with their peers, they arrange their circumcision with a man who is experienced in doing this," he narrated.

"Circumcision is done in a forested area so girls cannot see them. According to our beliefs, if a girl sees the circumcision, the boys' scrotum will grow big," he said.

First, the boys undergo a cleaning procedure, or *panlanggas* in the dialect. Guava leaves are boiled and the lukewarm water is used to clean the male organ (the non-traditional way uses penicillin).

A hole is made in the middle of a white cloth where the male organ is inserted and tied with a piece of cloth.

Leaves of *potat*, a wild tree, are softened by pinching with the fingers. It is held over a fire, to sterilize it, and then applied on the male organ.

During the actual circumcision, a stainless steel razor called *labaha* is used to cut the skin of the male organ.

Bathing in the sea

After the circumcision, the boys bathe in the sea. Bulalacao, the southernmost part of Oriental Mindoro and about five hours by land from Puerto Princesa City, is famous for its beautiful and pristine beaches.

"A newly circumcised boy is not allowed to go out from Monday to Friday as it is risky and old folks claim that a snake will come out and bite him," Gonzales said.

He said locals believe the male organ would have a better appearance when circumcised the traditional way, compared to having it done in the hospital.

"This is because the skin on the penis is stripped off. The skin is stretched back, so it is still intact, unlike in a hospital where the skin is also cut off," he explained.

"After *paltak* or cutting, the boys are asked to jump to minimize the bleeding. Some boys chew on guava leaves to divert their attention and ease the pain. They close their eyes and then it's all over," he added. "Some apply the chewed guava leaves to the wound to speed up healing, which ordinarily takes two weeks."

Palawan Batak urged to have 'lots of babies'

From page A1

Health's controversial Ligtas Buntis campaign.

"No birth control, in the meantime, in those remote villages," he quipped.

He said the city government, with its social reform agenda, was "doing everything to help save the Batak from extinction."

All other communities outside the Batak settlements are fair game for DOH endorsers of the condom, IUD and birth control pill.

'Now alive with children'

From a population of around 350 in 1996, the Batak have grown to a little more than 600, according to the nongovernment City Tribal Foundation Inc., which groups leaders of Palawan's indigenous groups.

"Most, if not all, Batak settlements are now alive with children, clearly a good sign," CTFI head Wilfredo Solomon said.

"Decimated by disease and hunger during the past decades, more Batak homes have sprung from forest clearings or along river banks, a far cry from the situation during the 1980s and 1990s," Solomon said. "They have definitely increased in numbers."

He said Batak births had also been reported in Batak communities in Nanabo and Caramay in nearby Roxas town, north of Puerto Princesa.

But the Batak's living conditions are another matter.

"They are still among the poorest of the poor here," Solomon said.

In April 1999, the late Tagbanua tribal leader Bienvenido Rodrigo, then CTFI president, reported the Batak totaled 484 persons.

Malnutrition, other problems

A study conducted during the early 1980s by anthropologist Rowe Cadelina revealed the Batak was in "considerable demographic difficulty."

The former head of the Dumaguete City-based Silliman University's Center for the Study of Philippine Culture noted the Batak's population pyramid had indicated its number might decline in the next 20 years.

"Because of malnutrition and other still unknown factors, the actual fertility level of the Batak is lower than the expected natural fertility level," Cadelina said.

These "suggest that the Batak population is, in fact, declining and perhaps has been declining for some time," he added.

A report by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) said "the high morbidity and mortality rates among the Batak are bringing them to the brink of extinction."

Mercy missions

"While it is true that medical missions have been conducted in Batak areas, their infrequency necessitates other venues of medical interventions," the report added.

For several years now, the city government has been providing the Batak health services on a regular basis, in addition to nonformal education and food aid.

The Batak has also been beneficiaries of the city government's "Kapakanan" poverty alleviation program, which in 1999 had a budget of around P40 million.

In 1997 and 1998, City Hall allocated P52 million for indigenous groups, like the Batak, as part of its social reform agenda.

For this year, the city government has to make do with only P10 million for the same program due to austerity measures, according to Hagedorn.

Protecting environment

"But that doesn't mean we have lost focus on Puerto Princesa's indigenous communities," he said.

This is where the NGO Tagbalay Foundation, the city government's partner in poverty alleviation and environmental protection programs, comes in. Hagedorn is its founding chair.

The group's objectives include ensuring enforcement of environmental laws and strengthening partnership between the city government and communities.

"In the native Palawan dialect of Cuyunin, *balay* means home, while the substantive prefix tag means doer. Tagbalay, therefore, refers to the homeowner or the one responsible for it," Hagedorn explained.

Help from UNDP

"Tagbalay refers to the one who considers his environment as his home, the stewardship of which is entrusted to him by its real owner—God."

The foundation has obtained a P2.2-million funding from the United Nations Development Program for its program to promote tropical forests."

The two-year project currently involves 80 Batak and Tagbanua families. It aims not only to protect forests but also to design a five-year community development plan.

"Both the Batak and Tagbanuas took part in the setting up of tree nurseries as well as tree-planting activities," said Christine Dador, Tagbalay action officer.

During the past 11 years, more than 1.5 million trees have been planted under City Hall's year-round tree-planting drive.

Cherry blossoms

"We'll also involve indigenous communities in the planting of the balayong, Palawan's native cherry blossoms," the mayor said.

Another first, Hagedorn said, was the participation of 15 Batak families from Cayasan in a silkworm project funded by the UNDP.

Hagedorn hopes to replicate the project in other Batak settlements.

Most of the Batak make a living by gathering *almaciga* and wild honey, which they sell to lowlanders.

The indigenous group also engages in slash-and-burn agriculture—the *kaingin* system—as they plant rice, corn, vegetables and fruit trees.

War against malaria

City health officer Dr. Juancho Monserate has vowed to help the Batak "win the war against malaria and other forest ailments that have been decimating them."

Monserate's office has conducted medical and dental missions in the Batak settlements. For the past nine years, too, a group of INQUIRER employees has sent out seven mercy missions to the Batak villages, distributing mosquito nets, antimalaria pills, assorted medicines, clothes, toys, powdered milk and other foodstuffs.

One of Hagedorn's immediate plans is to order a census of the city's Batak population.

"What we have are mostly estimates," he said.

How many really are they?

Different offices gave different population figures.

A 1990 census listed 2,031 speakers of the Batak language in Palawan but their number has since sharply decreased.

The National Statistics Office here said that in 2000 there were 364 Batak (187 males and 177 females).

The figures for other Palawan indigenous groups, according to the survey, are: Cuyonen, 168,635; Palawanon, 60, 912; Cagayanen, 18,029; Tagbanua, 16,157; Agutaynon, 11,831, and Calamianen, 3,099.

The Palawan-NSO publication Statustics, however, said that a 1996 report by the then Office for Northern Cultural Communities (ONCC) placed the local Batak population at 13,806—"obviously a typographical error," according to CTFI.

Question of survival

The ONCC, which has merged with the Office for Southern Cultural Communities to form the NCIP, has not updated its files.

"We neither have an operational plan nor program plan for the Batak and the other indigenous groups [this year]. We have the same funding problems," said an NCIP oldtimer.

Whatever are the numbers and despite the good news from CTFI that the settlements are "now alive with children," Hagedorn knows that the Batak "need our help more than ever."

"They cannot survive on their own," he said.

IN THE KNOW

Batak believe man has 5 souls

THE BATAK is the smallest of Palawan's ethnolinguistic groups.

Of Negrito stock, they are seminomads, alternating their residence in the forest and along the rivers. Their territory is the valley and its surrounding slopes.

They live by hunting, fishing and gathering wild yams, nuts, ferns, eggs and insects. Rice and honey are two of their most important foods.

The Batak people are animists. They believe that good and bad spirits reside in trees, rocks and mountains. To them, a person has five souls, the principal of which lives in the head.

Polygamy and polyandry are allowed in their society although, nowadays, it is no longer commonly practiced. Couples who cohabit are recognized even without a marriage ceremony called orako.

Divorce is allowed among them.

The Batak live in the mountainous sections of the municipalities of Babuyan, Tarabanan, Langugan, Caruray, Quinaratan, Buhayan and Barbacan. During rainy months, they come down to their settlements in Maoyon, Sumurod, Tarabanan, Bindoyan, Langugan, Malabosug, Tagnipa and Mapnud.

In the native Palawan dialect of Cuyunin, the word Batak means "mountain people." The Spaniards referred to them as "Tinitianes," from a place called Tinitian, on the coast north of Puerto Princesa.

SOURCE: KASAYSAYAN: THE STORY OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES-REGION IV, PDI ARCHIVES AND NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE. (PDI RESEARCH)

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Tyson goes for Pacquiao

From page A1

Pilipino"—Pacquiao declared like a soldier sailing to war as he headed back to his suite after a hearty dinner at the hotel's grand buffet.

No territories will be disputed either, but the clash of native pride has given Pacquiao the very rare chance to cure the sagging national spirit and lift his poor countrymen to ecstatic heights.

The awesome task is the first of this magnitude for any Filipino.

Just like Morales, a three-time world champion out to regain pride, Pacquiao is coming with everything—*con todo*—in a fight that has all the trappings of an all-time classic.

The 5-foot-7 Morales, 28, will give everything that's left of his legendary strength and skills. The Mexican boxing icon, with only two losses, has never been stopped in 49 fights.

Nothing less could be expected of the 26-year-old Pacquiao who also has lost only twice in 39 bouts.

Pacquiao, 5-foot-5 1/2, has the higher knockout record, 30 in 39 fights, compared to Morales, who has 34 in 47 wins.

Pacquiao continued to be the favorite in the sports book windows here despite the in-rush of Mexican money on the eve of the fight that has lent the MGM Grand and its neighboring establishments a frenzied fiesta mood.

Knockout

Predictably, those who had placed bets on Pacquiao also picked him to win by knockout.

If the bout were held right after the weigh-in at the Grand Arena yesterday, where Morales had to shed an extra pound for 30 minutes before stripping naked to make 130 lbs, Pacquiao would have blown the Mexican out of the ring.

Pacquiao, who breezed through the scales at 129 ½ lbs after having feasted like a king while skipping dinner for only a night, was visibly too mighty and muscular for Morales who came looking like a skeletal penitent ready to reenact the Crucifixion.

It will, however, be a totally different scenario in the ring today. Morales, after he's able to again take full meals, will blossom into a welterweight and fight at about 143 lbs.

THE FILIPINO tri-color flies high during the Pacquiao-Morales weigh-in.

Offensive lions

Pacquiao himself would come in with necessary poundage and enter maybe at 136 lbs.

On the whole though, the fight could be decided on who's able to withstand the punches of the other guy and score solid blows in return.

Morales, slightly taller and with a longer reach and better footwork, packs a mean right straight and a jarring uppercut.

Pacquiao is feared for his whirlwind offensive, anchored on a lethal left cross and great stamina that could send him throwing punches from bell to bell.

Both fighters are offensive lions.

With their sharp, blazing styles, the fight could develop into a savage encounter.

"We're ready, we're gonna have fun," trainer Freddie Roach said after dinner with Pacquiao yesterday.

Will they jumpstart to put Morales off-balance?

"No, no, they expect us to do that, we have other plans, but what I expect is for Morales to come out dirty," Roach said.

Z "The Dream" Gorres fights Glenn Donaire, an LA-based Filipino in one of the undercards. The super-lightweight bout is scheduled for eight rounds.

Betting odds

Last night, a $135-bet on Pacquiao was to pay only $100, based on the sports book odds.

The infighting in Team Pacquiao, which came out into the open during the pre-fight medical, was momentarily shelved as the moment of truth neared.

Pacquiao himself shrugged off as unfounded fears in Manila that he had been rendered weak after a simple blood test the other day.

Praying the rosary

The original five-day recitation of the rosary inside Pacquiao's suite was extended to six, with the final one today before the fighter leaves for the fight site.

A $100-wager on Morales would yield $120.

Pacquiao has consistently been favored in the betting windows here, but an exit poll of selected boxing experts in the United States gave Morales the nod, 54 to Pacquiao's 51, with one draw.

Mexicans are expected to outnumber Filipinos 4 to 1 at the MGM Garden Arena where Pacquiao missed outpointing another Mexican, Juan Manuel Marquez, the IBF/WBA featherweight champion, who escaped with a draw despite going down three times in the first round.

Before that all-revealing draw with Marquez, Pacquiao's stock had risen prodigiously following his 11th round demolition of Marco Antonio Barrera, another Mexican, in Texas in 2003.

Dreaming of Morales

Pacquiao, as early as after that epic win over Barrera, had been begging his handlers to put on Morales.

Pacquiao kept saying he had been dreaming of Morales.

Many boxing experts, including his handlers, did not take Pacquiao seriously.

Veteran referee Joe Cortez will be the third man in the ring. Sitting as judges are Dave Moretti, Chuck Giampa and Paul Smith, the same set of judges who called the first Winky Wright-Shane Mosley unification bout, among other high-profile matches.

PNP security tight ...

From page A1

as Quiapo in Manila, Cubao and Monumento in Quezon City, and Baclaran in Parañaque.

"A lot of people go to these places," he said. "They're not necessarily [targets]... What we are saying is, we are watching these areas because of the density of people there."

Maundy Thursday

According to Razon, the crucial day during the Holy Week will be Maundy Thursday, when the greatest number of people flock to churches.

All churches—and not only Catholic churches—in the metropolis have been warned about the supposed bomb threat. Church workers, including priests and janitors, have been told to be watchful.

"We are not just talking to priests. We are talking to [church] administrators, organizations under the church, and lay ministers, for them to help us protect churches. Because we can't guard them all," Razon said, adding:

"Even the janitors will be taught to be on the lookout for suspicious articles or bags."

He also said talks with the security officers of malls, hotels and restaurants would continue.

The security preparations cover the outskirts of Metro Manila, where police forces have been put on full alert, Razon said.

He said civil disturbance units in Regions 3 and 4 (Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog) were on standby.

Bus inspections

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao yesterday personally inspected bus terminals in Cubao, Quezon City.

On top of visibility patrols, more checkpoints will be put in place, and security officers of possible target areas have been told to be extra watchful, Lomibao said.

"I will be going around establishments so that the [beat cops] will know I'm on the ground, and [they] should also be on the ground," he said.

Security officers of bus firms in Quezon City have been instructed to bar passengers who refuse an inspection of their belongings, said Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, director of the Central Police District.

Asked if a "no inspection, no ride" policy would be strictly enforced this time, Radovan said anyone who would resist an inspection and insist on boarding would be detained.

"The bus conductors will not allow them to board the bus," he said. "The security guards of the bus terminals will do the inspections. We will be there to assist them in case somebody resists [an inspection]."

The PNP is not discounting the possibility of attacks on tourist spots, although intelligence reports say "key cities" are the likely targets.

"The information we have is that Metro Manila and key cities in Mindanao [are the targets]. But we should not leave out other areas," Lomibao said, adding:

"The [bombers] might say, 'Look, they're tightly guarding Metro Manila. Let's bomb [places in the] Visayas or [other areas]."

Public vigilance

But more than the security measures, public vigilance is crucial in preventing the supposed bomb plot from succeeding, Lomibao said.

"Vigilance is still the key," he said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum, citing instances when a bomb attack was thwarted because of an observant citizen.

For example, he said, a few months ago the driver of a Rizal-bound bus spotted an unattended backpack in his vehicle and called the attention of the police. The bag supposedly contained an improvised explosive device made of TNT.

"We lack policemen. We need the help of civilians, the local governments, and the media to tell people what to do," Lomibao said. He said the people themselves should be wary of suspicious-looking persons and bags "because there are not enough policemen [to check them all]."

"If [the people] are very, very vigilant, it would be of great help to us," he added.

Live normally

Malacañang likewise advised the people to be alert for possible terror attacks this Holy Week, but said they should carry on with their usual activities.

"Let us live normal lives but be ever watchful and vigilant and ready to cooperate with authorities so that security measures are always strictly observed," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in the wake of the PNP warning aired Friday that the alleged bomb plot of the Abu Sayyaf was real.

As proof of the police's firm grip on the security situation, Bunye cited the arrest of suspected terrorists and the identification of a group supposedly engaged in a bombing mission.

"This is a clear signal that the authorities are on top of the situation," he said in a statement.

Lomibao named on Friday seven suspected Abu Sayyaf members supposedly planning bomb attacks this week on churches and other populated areas like shopping malls, public markets, parking lots and bus terminals.

But Razon also said on Friday that the supposed bomb plot was as yet unverified. Still, he said, additional security measures had been put in place.

Race against time

Lomibao reminded reporters at the forum that Holy Week was at hand and that the PNP had not downgraded its alert status since the Valentine's Day bombings.

Asked whether catching the seven supposed bombers had become a race against time, he said: "Yes, of course."

He also said the success of the supposed bomb plot depended on the measures put in place: "If [the bombers] feel that our security measures are adequate, they may back out. Prevention is better."

But more important, he said, was the vigilance of the citizenry.

Lomibao took pains to explain that the PNP was not trying to stir panic.

"On the other hand, if we do not inform our people [about the] threat and something happens, they will accuse us again of intelligence failure," he said. "What we are trying to do is inform the public, so that they will know what to do and how to avoid [a bomb attack] or prevent it."

But Lomibao advised the people against being "overwhelmed by the information."

"Let us go out. Let us perform our normal duties, and with God's blessings, with the Lord controlling all of us, *siguro naman walang mangyayari* (perhaps nothing will happen)," he said.

'Original target'

Hundreds of thousands of Filipinos are expected to flock to the provinces during Holy Week.

Baguio City, the Philippines' premier summer capital, was the "original target" of the supposed bomb plot, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"Baguio was a target long ago," Gonzalez told reporters on Friday, adding that the National Security Council chose not to make the announcement so as not to cause public alarm.

But a watch is being maintained in Baguio and in churches in urban areas because it is likely that the Abu Sayyaf will pick targets with large crowds of people, Gonzalez said.

He added: "I don't think any place is absolutely safe ... What is important is to avoid [going to] crowded areas."

Gonzalez also said he had put his men on alert "day and night" during Holy Week.

He said prosecutors with the National Anti-Crime Task Force, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Administration, as well as lawyers from the Public Attorney's Office, were on standby for inquests in case arrests were made. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum*

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Bomb threats fail to stop mad summer rush for the provinces

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THREATS or no threats, metro folk took to bus stations in droves on their way to the provinces.

"If we succumb to threats then they have succeeded in terrorizing us," said Joey Suan, a student and one of hundreds who flocked to the Araneta Center bus terminal yesterday.

The Araneta Center terminal is host to 32 bus companies offering trips to Luzon, the Visayas, and even Mindanao.

Suan was waiting for a ride that would take him to his hometown in Samar.

He said he had always taken a bus to the province.

Nearby, a family of six waited for their bus to arrive.

"This is the cheapest form of transportation, especially for a big family like ours," said Nimfa, who added that amid terrorist threats all that commuters could probably do was pray that nothing bad would happen.

"What we can do is pray for safety," added the woman who said it would be her first time to return to her hometown in 18 years.

According to her, she and her family were more scared of the horrendous traffic, which she said had delayed the arrival of their bus.

Newly installed National Police chief Director General Arturo Lomibao said the other day that the threat of bombings was real.

Subsequently, police have tightened security in the metropolis, especially in crowded places.

"We believed that the police are doing their job in preventing any terrorist attack," said Dodong another passenger, when asked about security measures to ensure the safety of those going outside Metro Manila.

Bus terminal manager Ramon Legazpi said the influx of passengers had not changed from recent years amid the terrorist threats.

"In peak season like this, we dispatched more than 600 buses for Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao," Legazpi said.

Off season, he explained, only about 400 buses arrive at and leave the terminal daily.

"We have sufficient security measures and we are coordinating with the police," Legazpi added.

The terminal management, Legazpi said, hired bomb-sniffing dogs to help its security guards and law enforcers in the inspection of luggage, which are all opened and searched.

"We are have prepared packing tapes to put back in order the passengers' belongings," he said.

Cubao police station director Supt. Bernabe Balba, who inspected the security measures at the terminal, said that tightened security was being implemented not only in bus terminals but also in malls, the Metro Rail Transit and the Light Rail Transit terminals.

"Our men are deployed systematically so as not to neglect any areas," Balba said.

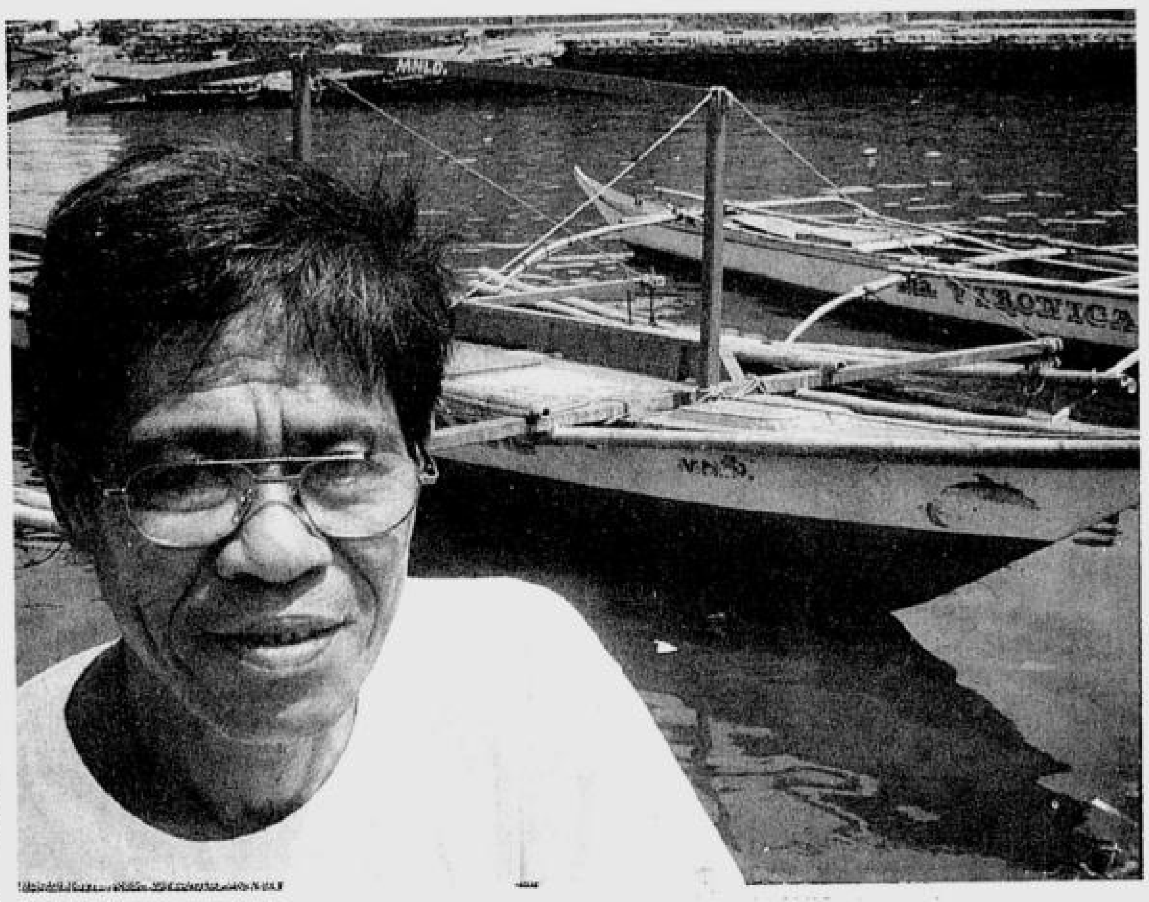
Over at Sto. Domingo church on Quezon Avenue, security men were not increased but available personnel were told to be more alert.

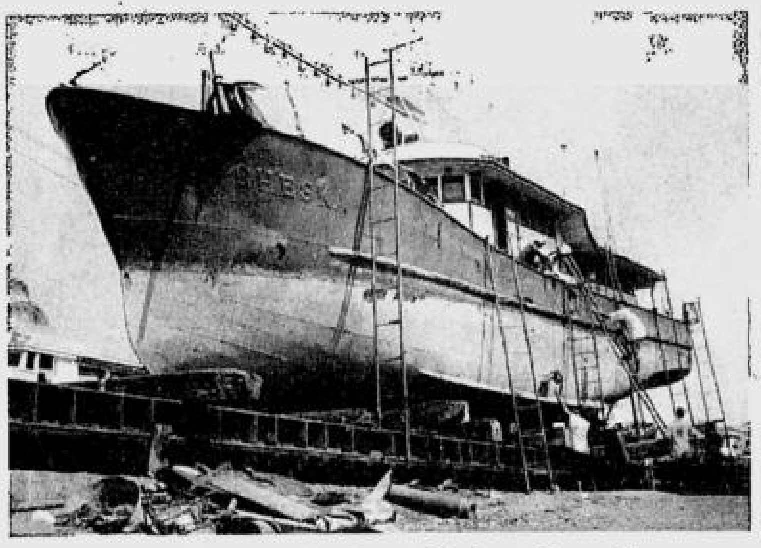
"We have told our men to be sharper and wary of suspicious persons," said Robert Altamirano, the church's in-charge for security.

He said there had been no instructions to open the bags of people going into the church.

Navotas ship(-building) is sinking

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.





RODRIGO de la Cruz (left photo) stands in front of one of the many boats he had built while trying to keep alive an industry that has been in crisis for some time now. Above, workers repair a boat at the Navotas Shipyard, which townsfolk say is the oldest operating boat yard in the country.
RAFFY LERMA

THOUGH he is not a fisherman, the livelihood of Rodrigo dela Cruz, 56, depends on the sea.

In the coastal town of Navotas, where more than half of the population is into fishing, dela Cruz earns money without going to sea.

A banca-builder, he is happy that fishing remains the biggest industry in their town. The Navotas Fishport, according to local officials, is the biggest fish market in Southeast Asia.

Fishing gave birth to the banca-building industry in Navotas.

"If you do not have your own banca (for fishing), you will have to rent. That will be very costly," Barangay Sipac Almacen chair Antonio Linang said. Motorized bancas are also needed to reach fish pens.

Dela Cruz did not have any formal training and nobody in his family was into boat-building. He learned his craft by observing others.

He was a laborer in one of several shipyards in the coastal town before accepting a foreign job as carpenter. When he returned in 1986, he went back to his first love.

Dela Cruz said the cheapest motor banca was *sibid*, which sells for P25,000 and takes three weeks to build.

The most expensive he has assembled is called *balakol*. He sold one last year for P1.5 million.

Curves, no corners

"It is more difficult to build a banca than a house. Houses have corners. Bancas have curves," dela Cruz said in Filipino.

He builds the banca first then draws the design. "I just (visualize the design)... then I would ask someone to draw it so it could be registered," he said.

He does almost everything—carpentry, connecting the wires, installing the engine, painting. The only thing he cannot do is lettering.

His skill has made him famous not just in their neighborhood. A friend in Davao City even wanted him to build a banca.

Ships, too

Navotas, home to big fishing companies, also hosts shipyards that provide the craft for those firms.

The Navotas Shipyard is the oldest, established in 1931, according to Jesus Villaflor, current president.

His father started the family business with a small capital and armed with a few years of experience from working for the VL Shipyard, the first in Navotas, opening in 1928.

As the family was also into fishing, the elder Villaflor started the shipyard to make their own vessels.

When the war broke out in 1941, Japanese soldiers took over the shipyard, which is strategically located at Barangay San Roque facing the Navotas River that empties into Manila Bay.

The Americans took over the shipyard after the surrender of the Japanese.

In 1947, Villaflor got back the family business.

"I wanted to become a priest. But my father forced me to take up Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in the United States," he said.

In 1967, when he became president of the shipyard, ship-building in Navotas was at its peak. But then second-hand vessels from Japan entered the market.

Competition

The used vessels were much cheaper—selling for as low as P40,000. The slump of the once booming Navotas ship building industry began.

"What makes ship-building difficult in our country is that... you have to assemble all the parts... In other countries... (different) companies produce spare parts," Villaflor said.

Engines are ordered from companies in Europe so a fishing vessel now costs P15 million and takes more than a year to assemble.

The high price of steel also raises the cost of local vessels. So, increasingly, customers are buying imported.

"Before, a kilo of steel cost 60 centavos. Now (it) costs P40. The problem is we do not produce... steel," Villaflor said.

Foreign vessels also get tax exemptions.

"Shipyards here rarely build new ships now. About 70 percent of their work is repairing vessels," Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said.

Even banca-makers like dela Cruz had to cope with sharp increases in production costs. In 2002, a sheet of plywood cost P600. Today, less than three years later, the price is P1,000.

In fact, dela Cruz could not even afford to have his own banca.

Both dela Cruz and Villaflor have another concern—that overfishing would kill their businesses.

"The fishing industry is very shaky. Resources have been depleted. Prices of oil are (also) very steep," said Villaflor who, in 2003, stopped their fishing operations.

Lambert Sianghio, president of the association of shipyards in Metro Manila, said shipyards in Navotas used to assemble ships for companies in Japan, Korea, Malaysia and even the United States.

"But... the government's changing policies on international trade (have made) business (more) difficult for local companies," he said.

Another problem is corruption.

"(The government is) very corrupt. How can we survive against foreign competitors?" Sianghio added.

Navotas has 15 registered shipyards. But Sianghio said there were 39 shipyards in the small town, including unregistered ones.

Sianghio said, "We're getting tired of expansion and re-development because many shipyards have been mushrooming. Unregulated small fishing boats also block our navigational area."

The municipal government appears to be powerless as the national government, specifically the Maritime Industry Authority or Marina, is in charge of the industry.

"We do not have ordinances to regulate shipyards. We do not have the technical capability to evaluate (their operations)," Tiangco said.

Villaflor said Filipinos have the skills and the government has the equipment and technical know-how. "Why don't we build our own ships?"

Unless the government finds an answer, a once booming industry may sink.

Cop-rob suspect arrested

POLICE Officer 1 Edwin Roma was also in a graduation of sorts.

Roma, 29, and a member of the Regional Security Action Unit in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, was arrested the other day while attending a relative's graduation on Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila.

The policeman, a resident of Wagas Street, Tondo, Manila, is being accused of participating in a series of robberies in Manila.

He has been identified by four complainants as one of several suspects who held them up in separate incidents, according to Senior Insp. Mauro Pereyra.

Pereyra, who heads the Western Police District's special weapons and tactics team, said Roma managed to continue working as a policeman despite his alleged illegal activities.

However, members of the WPD-SWAT managed to track him down at the graduation rites, where he was promptly arrested.

Margaux C. Ortiz

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OUTREACH
Indigent families of Barangay Putatan, Muntinlupa City, availthemselves of free medicine, dental and medical checkups at the "Alaxan Alis Aray sa Barangay" medical mission of United Laboratories.

Officials zero in on gastro culprit

SAMPLES of 12 kinds of food served at the graduation ball of Grade 7 students of the De La Salle Zobel-Santiago School in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City, have been sent to the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) for analysis.

BFAD is trying to determine which of those on the menu caused gastroenteritis to 22 students who attended the ball last Wednesday.

Previously, it was reported that the mango and strawberry crepe served as dessert could have caused the food poisoning.

Food served were shrimp tempura, chicken yakitori, yaki meshi, french fries, pizza, pasta, nachos, chicken and beef quesadillas, mini burgers with condiments, ice cream, crepes with mango, strawberry, apple and kiwi, and iced tea. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Now, Makati is asking for help from MMDA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TRAFFIC? Blame the bridge.

The Makati Department Public Safety (DPS) is appealing to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) to help ease the traffic congestion along C-5 Road, especially on the approach to Kalayaan Avenue.

In a recent meeting with MMDA Traffic Engineering Center and DPWH officials at the Makati City Hall, Makati DPS officials pointed out the traffic buildup on the southbound lane of C-5.

He blamed it on the narrowness of Lanuza Bridge, which spans the Pasig River connecting Barangay Pineda in Pasig City with Barangay West Rembo in Makati.

"Our observation is that traffic eases up after Lanuza," said Herminigildo San Miguel, Makati DPS director.

He added that Makati-bound motorists were the ones inconvenienced by traffic, which sometimes stretches as far as the C-5-Ortigas flyover.

Makati traffic officials noted the abrupt lane transition, which starts with four lanes at C-5 and suddenly narrows down to three lanes then two lanes at the Lanuza Bridge.

San Miguel added that the lack of a dedicated lane along C-5 going to The Fort in Taguig City was also affecting traffic flow, forcing vehicles heading for The Fort to swerve and cut across C-5.

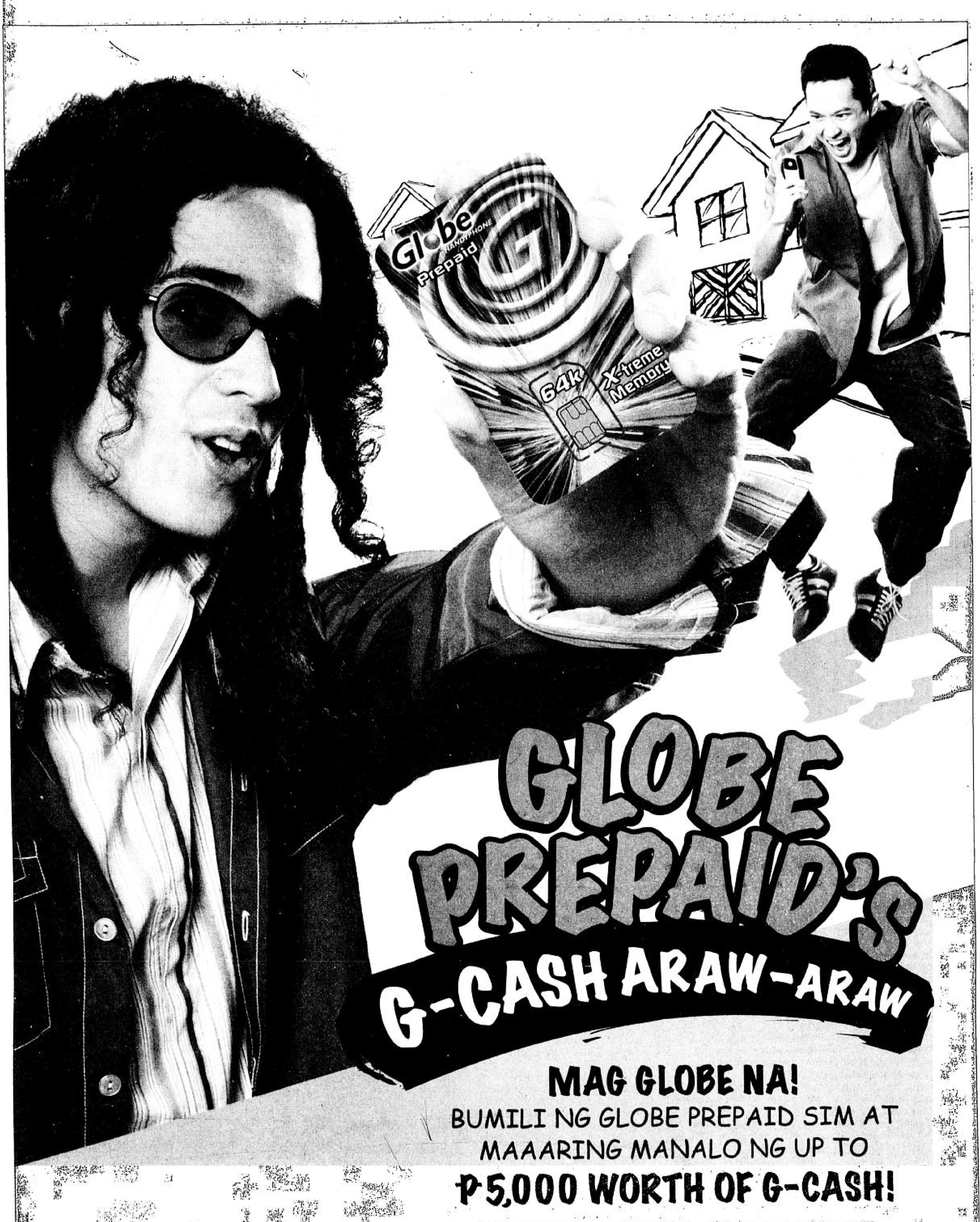
"This has to be addressed by MMDA and DPWH at the soonest, so as not to further inconvenience motorists," he said.

The area has suffered a resurgence in traffic after Makati opened a lane that crisscrosses the C-5-Kalayaan intersection from San Guillermo Avenue in Pasig to Kalayaan Avenue.

The MMDA earlier closed the Pasig-to-Makati lane to allow more time for vehicles along C-5 to cross the intersection.

The Makati portion of C-5, which is the third most crowded road in Makati, has a daily traffic load of 94,602 vehicles.

The two other busiest roads in Makati are Edsa and Osmeña Highway.



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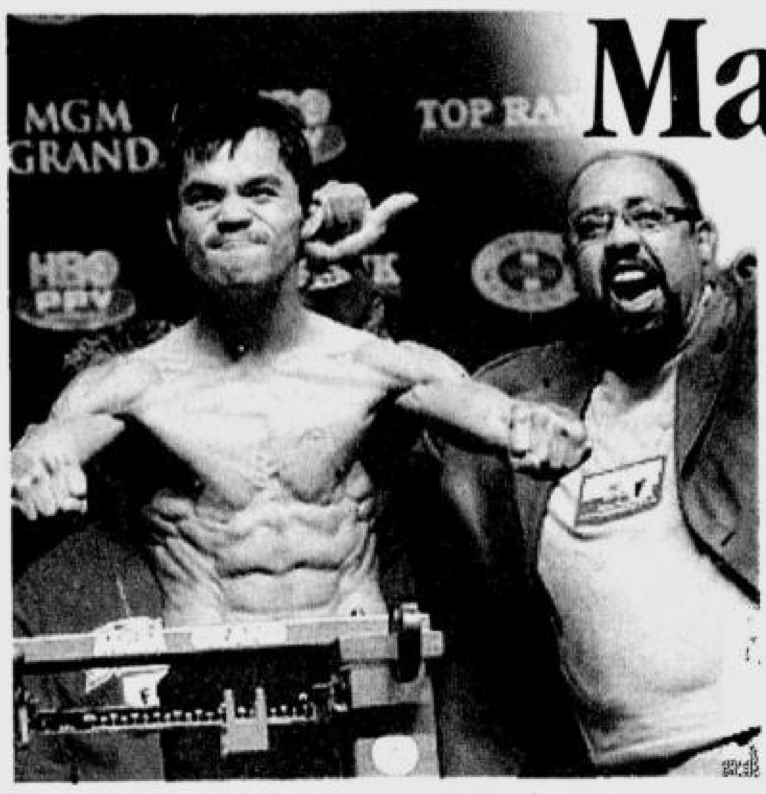
Manny coy on fight plans


MANNY Pacquiao is raring to take on Erik Morales.

LAS VEGAS—Manny Pacquiao has watched films of Erik Morales in action. But ask him if he has seen anything that will help him when he fights Morales Saturday night (Sunday in Manila), and he says, "Yes, but I don't think I want to comment on that."

Ask Pacquiao why he was unable to stop Juan Manuel Marquez last May after dropping him three times in the first round, eventually managing only a draw and missing a chance to take Marquez's two featherweight belts, and Pacquiao is equally evasive.

"I don't want to think about the past," he said. "I believe I won that fight, but I just chalk it up to experience."

However, Pacquiao does not hesitate when asked if he is ready for Morales. The two will meet in the main event today at the MGM Grand. Their junior lightweight fight is scheduled for 12 rounds. The card will be available on HBO pay-per-view beginning at 6 p.m.

"This is my longest preparation, three months," said Pacquiao, 26, of the Philippines. "We worked a lot for this fight. I am really prepared."

This is Pacquiao's first fight at 130 pounds. He has won world championships in the flyweight and super bantamweight divisions.

Although there are no actual titles on the line tonight, promoters are billing it as a world title fight.

There are at least two questions that figure to be answered in this one. Can Pacquiao, who is 39-2-2 with 30 knockouts, bring his power up to yet another weight class after starting his professional career 10 years ago as a 106-pound strawweight?

And, can Morales (47-2, 34 KOs) step up to the plate in what for him is a crossroads fight?

New York Times News Service

MORALES		PACQUIAO
28	Age	26
9/1/76	DOB	12/17/78
12 YRS.	Career Span	10 YRS., 2 MO.
3/29/93	First Pro Fight	1/22/95
49	Total Fights	43
47-2-0 (34)	W-L-D (KO'S)	39-2-2 (30)
95.9	Winning Pct	90.7
69.4	KO Pct	69.8
13	Won By Decision	9
0	Lost by KO	2
0	Draws	2
309	Total Rounds	199
6.3	Avg. Rounds Per Fight	4.6
3	First Round KO's	6
0	Current Win Streak	1
41	Longest Win Streak	15
0	Current KO Streak	1
9	Longest KO Streak	8

Las Vegas bettors favor Pacquiao

FILIPINO boxing icon Manny Pacquiao officially becomes the first Asian to headline a pay-per-view card when he fights Erik Morales in Las Vegas today.

The Filipino superstar has also been installed the money favorite over the Mexican living legend Morales, with Las Vegas oddsmakers even increasing his chance of winning based on the latest figures.

Also, in a survey by a Top Rank poll, 56 percent of those interviewed picked Pacquiao to win, while only 44 percent voted for Morales out of a total of 12,957 respondents.

In the latest Vegas betting line, the Filipino brawler was installed a -145 favorite over Morales with the Mexican remaining the underdog at +125.

It is the biggest margin for Pacquiao since the fight was officially listed, and the first time for Morales to be rated such a huge underdog.

Pacquiao tipped the scales yesterday at 129.5 lbs, while Morales came in at exactly 130 lbs during the official weigh-in held at Hall A&B of the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

Salven Lagumbay, contributor

Mom to pray rather than watch fight

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Dionisia Pacquiao, Manny's mother, said she has not stopped praying for her son's success although she was confident he would win.

Ms Pacquiao said that since the time his son left for the United States for the fight, she has been praying that God would help Manny succeed.

She told reporters on Friday that she was optimistic about Manny defeating Erik Morales during their fight in Las Vegas Sunday morning.

But Ms Pacquiao said she would not be watching Manny's fight against Morales.

She said she would instead spend the hours praying because even if she was confident of her son's ability as a boxer, "I don't have the courage to watch Manny trade punches with his fellow boxer."

As in his previous fights, Manny's day with Morales would be followed closely by residents here. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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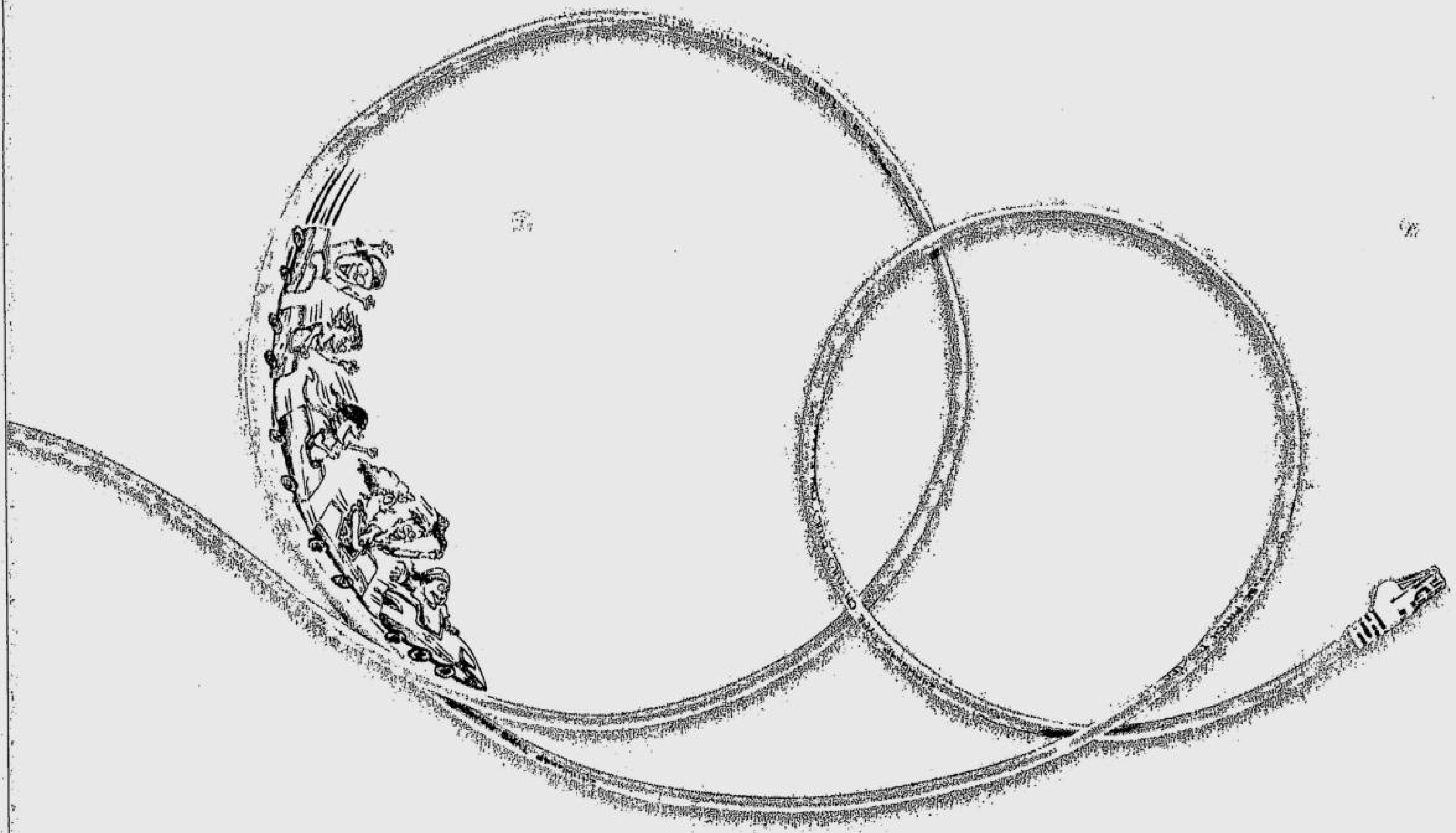
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BAP okays int'l stints for 13 refs

THERE'S no substitute for actual exposure.

With this in mind, the Basketball Association of the Philippines has decided to send the country's best amateur referees to international competitions.

The BAP will be sending 13 of its top national referees to two prestigious international events—The Super Basketball League in Taipei, Taiwan, and the Asian Wheelchairs Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia—to further upgrade their officiating skills.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim recently inked an agreement with Chinese Taipei Basketball Association (CTBA) secretary general Steven Y.P. Kao for an exchange program of technical development in line with the thrust to upgrade the quality of officiating of both countries.

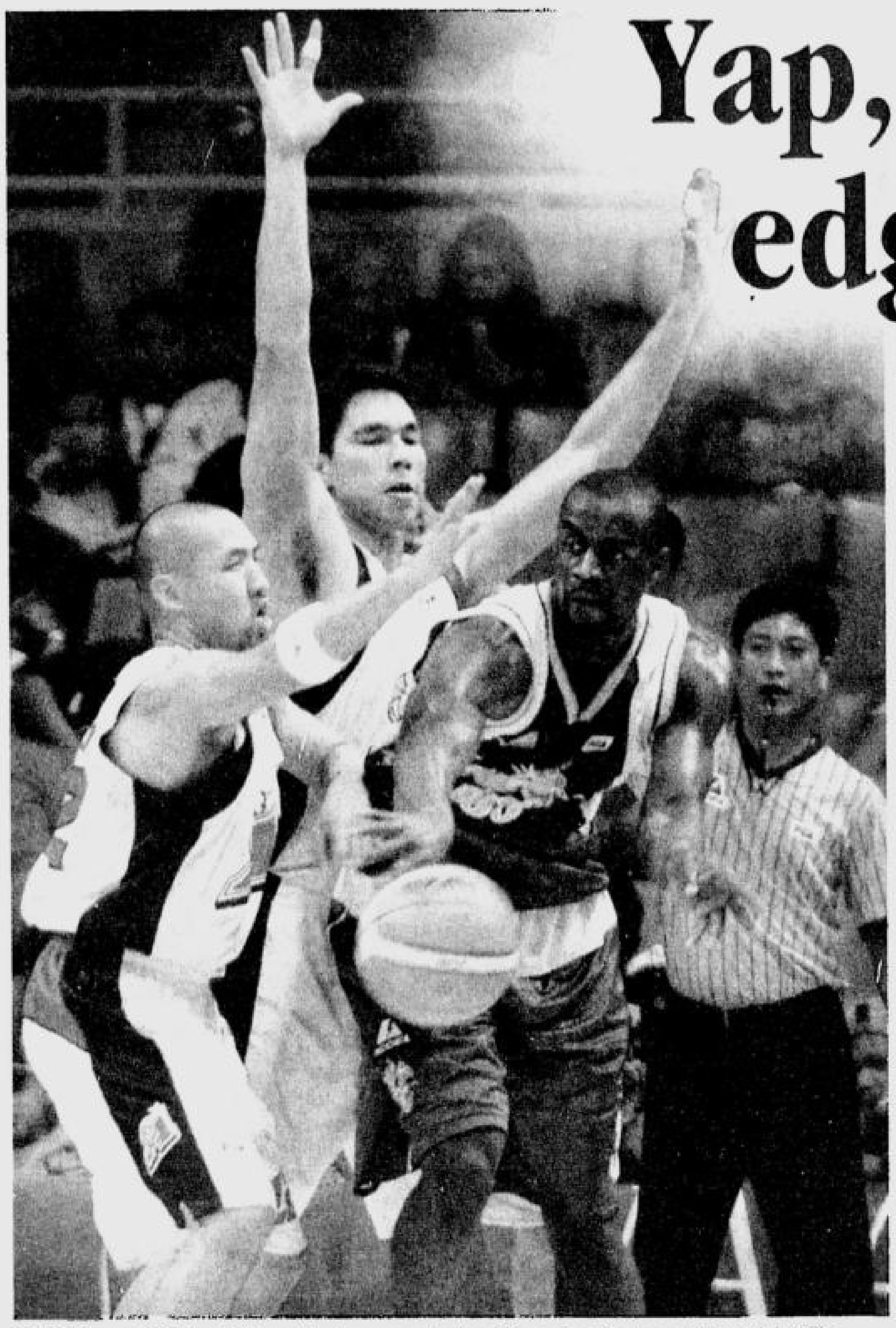
The BAP is set to dispatch four batches of three referees from April 7 to May 2 as the exchange program focuses more on the technicalities of three-man officiating.

These referees will actually call the shots in officiating games of the Super Basketball League—Taiwan's No. 1 cage league seen Worldwide through ESPN and Star Sports.

Gil Reglo, Arnold Peñafuerte and Jerry Jimenez compose the first batch to officiate in the SBL from April 7-11 while Ferdinand Pascual, Carlos Ramirez and Michael Vergara are in the second batch set April 15-18.

George Magsino, Nestor Macatuno and Arnulfo Bermeo are in the third batch set to blow their whistles in the SBL on April 22-25 while in the last batch set April 29-May 2 are Anthony Sulit, Felix Sanchez and Pascual.

International referee for wheelchair Edgar Lagne has been chosen as one of the game officials of the Asian Wheelchairs Competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, this April.



SHELL import Wesley Wilson tries to pass out of an Alaska double team Friday night. The Aces beat the Turbo Chargers, 88-82. RYAN LIM

Yap, Purefoods edge Red Bull

BALANGA—Rookie James Yap rifled his way to 22 points as Purefoods subdued Red Bull Barako, 81-78, in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Bataan People's Center here.

Picking up where Kerby Raymundo had left off, Yap shot torridly from the outside, pumping in 17 of his 22 points in the second half to spearhead the TJ Hotdogs to their third win in four games.

Enrico Villanueva and Dalron Johnson banged in 20 points each but couldn't get enough local support for the Barako, who fell to 2-2 in the company of the Shell Turbo Chargers.

Peter June Simon scored all of his nine points in the second half and Jun Limpot added seven as the TJ Hotdogs followed up a recent victory over the Coca-Cola Tigers in Antipolo City.

Antonio Smith and Raymundo imposed themselves in the paint, helping the TJ Hotdogs control the first two quarters and build a 33-30 halftime edge.

Raymundo hurt his left knee and was immediately brought to the Catlina Medical Center following a mid-air collision with Johnson going into the final stretch of the second quarter.

After doctors pronounced Raymundo out of danger, coach Ryan Gregorio fielded back his tower of strength in the third as the TJ Hotdogs slowly widened the gap, 58-48.

The Barako threatened at some stretches but Yap, Simon and Limpot were up to the challenge, leading the TJ Hotdogs to safer grounds after their third-quarter breakaway.

Meanwhile, the Alaska Aces are looking at Lubara Dixon, a European league campaigner, as possible replacement to the inefficient Leon Derricks, a source told the INQUIRER. *June Navarro*

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	2	0
San Miguel	3	1
Purefoods	3	1
Red Bull	2	2
Ginebra	2	1
Shell	2	2
FedEx	1	2
Coca-Cola	1	3
Sta. Lucia	1	3
Alaska	1	3

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs San Miguel Beer
6:35 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs FedEx

The scores:

PUREFOODS 81—Yap 22, Smith 12, Simon 9, Raymundo 8, Limpot 7, Castillo 7, Evangelista 6, Artadi 5, Yee 3, Laure 2.

RED BULL 78—Villanueva 20, Johnson 20, Baguio 10, Tugade 9, Ejercito 7, Torion 6, Ybañez 2, Bernardo 2, Asaytono 2, Robinson 0, Valenzuela 0, Gahol 0, Meneses 0.

Quarters: 16-13, 33-30, 58-48, 81.

Dela Cruz, 61

ALBERTO "Totoy" O. de la Cruz, a former referee of the Philippine Basketball Association, died on March 15 at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife Amelia; children Alberto Jr., Lloyd and Aleena; daughters-in-law Goldatricia and Sheryl Anne; son-in-law Michael Arco, and grandchildren.

His body lies in the Garden Chapel, Arlington East, in Pasig City. There will be a Mass before interment today at the Evergreen Memorial Park at 1 p.m.

ARNAIZ PDI PHOTO

Dumaguete to host Asian U cagefest

NATIONAL intercollegiate champion University of Perpetual Help Dalta System, Philippine Maritime Institute and National University will see action in the 4th Asian University Basketball Championship to be hosted by Dumaguete City from June 12-18.

Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) secretary general Graham Lim said the three schools were chosen because of their 1-2-2 finish in last month's National Students Basketball Championships, which served as qualifying tournament for the Asian University Championships.

"We want to give our collegiate teams the chance to play in a top-level tournament like the Asian University Championships," said Lim, who is the chair of the AUBC Board. "Other participants will come from Korea, Japan, China, Chinese Taipei and Thailand."

Fiba president Carl Menky Ching (China-HK) is vice chair while the members are Dr. Ekodjatmiko Sukarso (Indonesia), Shin Dong Pa (Korea), Wang Jen Sen (Chinese Taipei) and Lu Lian Jie (China).

Lim also thanked Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz for giving his all-out support to the AUBC.

"This is the first time that the AUBC will be held out of town and we would like to express our gratitude to Governor Arnaiz, who assured that his province will be ready to host the event," added Lim. The NSBC was also held in Dumaguete City early this month.

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Bigger NBC set this year

AFTER a resounding success in its inaugural run last year, the National Basketball Conference (NBC) championship promises to be bigger and better this year.

From a record SRO crowd in its opening in Cagayan de Oro in June to a thrilling national finals between Skygo-backed Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes) and Forward Taguig in October, NBC has lured hundreds of thousands of cage fans from as far as Ozamiz City in the South to Baguio City in the north.

No doubt, NBC has filled the void left by the defunct MBA.

"The people's response to our league last year was overwhelming. We're grateful that we have succeeded in our efforts to revive the community-based concept started by the MBA," said NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla.

The NBC has expanded its roster from eight to 10 this year. The expansion teams are the Parañaque Jets of vice mayor and actor-TV host Anjo Yllana and the Valencia Golden Harvest of Mayor Jose Galario Jr.

The league, now sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines, is being run by chair Louie Kierulf and secretary general Tito Palma. BAP-affiliated referees will officiate under the supervision of referee supervisor Ernie de Leon and technical committee head Arlene Rodriguez.

BAP sec-gen Graham Lim has tasked NBC to form a strong selection for the annual Kwan Hwu Cup in Hwalin, Taiwan, on May 25-29. NBC will also hold an international invitational tourney after the regular season featuring its top two teams, the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier team and two top teams from Japan and Chinese Taipei.

NBC teams will also hold tune-up games with RP-Cebuana Lhuillier, which is preparing for the Southeast Asian Games here in November-December.

Other NBC officials are Dennis Villa-Ignacio, vice president; Michelle Gaano and Michelle Daclan, north and south operations heads, respectively; Waway Apolinar and Cipriano Galo, sales, and Alder Almo, media affairs.

Defending champion Tribu Sugbu of businessman Lito Gillamac Jr. is confident of keeping the title, while the Iloilo Warrios of Robert Uy vowed to field a stronger team this year.

Meanwhile, the NBC free agent camp will be held on March 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Washington gym in Makati City. Interested players may call Michelle Gaano or Michelle Daclan at 8111374.

Letran vs Ateneo in Micaba

UNBEATEN Letran goes up against Ateneo and Adamson University faces University of the Philippines on Monday, March 21, in semifinal matches in the Micaba inter-school basketball tournament at the Tanduay gym in Quiapo.

The Knights, who finished the eliminations with a 9-0 card, have the twice-to-beat edge over the Blue Eagles (5-4) in their 6 p.m. tiff.

The Falcons (7-2) likewise have a twice-to-beat advantage over the Maroons (7-2) in their game at 4:30.

Six other teams saw action in the tourney. San Sebastian College, Mapua Tech and University of Perpetual Help finished tied from fifth to seventh at 4-5, followed by National University (3-6), World City University (3-6) and Jose Rizal University (0-9).

The Knights completed a sweep of their elimination games by beating the Maroons, 81-74.

Boyet Bautista, Ronald Aldave and Aaron Aban led the Knights with 16, 14 and 11 points, respectively.

Abby Santos and Nestor David carried the load for UP with 19 and 13 points, respectively.

Flyweight bouts on 'Fistorama'

SAMSUNG'S "Fistorama" today features two exciting bouts in the flyweight and featherweight divisions. Marlon Malacao clashes with Rosano Miranda in four rounds at 112 lb while Marlon Galicia trades punches with Michael Forenas in six rounds at 126 lb. The fights were held recently at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bagumbayan, Taguig City.

Samsung's "Fistorama" is aired thrice weekly in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong and other parts of the world through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel.

Samsung's "Fistorama" supported by Samsung, Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9. The longest-running local sports program, "Golf Power," featuring the finals in the collegiate division of the Toyota Balintawak Beach Volleyball Challenge precedes the boxing program at 3 p.m.

Real Spicy eyes revenge vs Speed Majesty today

REAL Spicy leads a host of Triple Crown candidates

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

REAL Spicy's otherwise brilliant campaign last year was tainted by the twin setbacks he suffered against Speed Majesty.

This afternoon, Hermie Esguerra's prized chestnut colt gets the chance to seek revenge when he leads a classy bunch of Triple Crown candidates clashing in the P1-million Chairman's Cup at the Santa Ana Park.

But Speed Majesty may no longer pose as the biggest obstacle to Real Spicy's goal to keep his winning streak going and fortify his reputation as this year's hottest bet in the coming three-leg series.

Instead, it will be Speed Advantage, Speed Majesty's coupled entry, who is looming as the main stumbling block in the 1,600-meter race billed as a preview of the Triple Crown's opening leg—the Cojuangco Cup.

Real Spicy, last year's Juvenile Champion, is currently on an 8-race victory binge, the last during a Class Division run on March 3 which he used as warm-up for this afternoon's event honoring PCSO chair Sergio Valencia.

"*Handang-handa siya.* Excited *din yata gaya ko* (He's ready. It seems he's also excited as I am)," said ace jockey Pat Dilema, who'll be riding Real Spicy for the 11th time.

The son of 1988 Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Real Quiet, Real Spicy first collided against Speed Majesty in the Santa Ana Juvenile last July and was beaten in wire-to-wire style, the same technique the latter used in notching another win in the first leg of the Juvenile Colt championship a month later.

But a leg injury sidelined Speed Majesty just as Real Spicy started to flex his might against the other 2-year-olds around, kicking off his winning streak with a Class Division romp last Aug. 27.

Real Spicy is also spearheading a 4-pronged bid today by the Esguerra Stable which also fielded in Euro Bucks, One Vision and Joint Account.

Euro Bucks will also try to get back at Speed Advantage who beat the daughter of Account of Grace in the first leg of the "Road to Triple Crown" where Speed Majesty came in a fagged out ninth among 12 runners.

Antonio Alcasid Jr. remains as Speed Advantage's skipper and despite the lackadaisical performance, the Yutadco Stable decided to retain Louie Balboa as Speed Majesty's partner.

"I'd like to invite all the *bayang karerista* to watch this race featuring most of this year's Triple Crown candidates. *Magkita-kita po tayo sa* (Let's see each other at) Santa Ana," said Philracom chief Jimmy Dilag, who said that the winner will pocket P600,000.

The featured event that will also reward P225,000, P125,000 and P50,000 to the second to fourth placers likewise lured Jun Almeda's Golden Fantasy, Francis and Michael Trillana's D As in Dixie, the Niles Stable's In Command, Thywillbedone and Montezuma.

Jesse Guce takes Dilema's place on Euro Bucks, while Manolito Daquis and Ronald Baldonido will retain the rides on One Vision and Joint Account, respectively.

Clockings-wise, Real Spicy is the horse to beat in the race, tucking a best effort of 1:40 flat over the distance. Speed Advantage's fastest is a 1:41 flat.

I'm not the original respondent—Estimo

NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines secretary general Sammy Estimo yesterday said it is not him but former NCFP president Mat Defensor and Grandmaster Eugene Torre who must be held responsible for the malversation charges recommended to be filed against him by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Estimo said the "original respondent in the case who received a subpoena from the NBI was lawyer Mat Defensor, who was then the President of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP).

"To recall, it was Atty. Defensor and GM Torre who solicited the amount from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) to pay the plane fare of the 10 players who competed in the 2003 World Youth Chess Championship in Greece," said Estimo, reacting to the PSC decision to testify against 'him for the alleged malversation of government funds as claimed by PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy.

"For reasons known only to the PSC, it released the money as allowances of 11 athletes and 7 officials. The truth is there were only 9 players who went to Greece accompanied by GM Torre."

Estimo said that when the PSC released the amount, he and Torre used the money to buy plane tickets of the chessers. No allowances were requested in the letter of Atty. Defensor and GM Torre.

"When the players arrived from the tournament, Mr. Florencio Campomanes told them that they had allowances, obviously referring to the erroneous voucher issued by the PSC, and so they started asking us about the same," Estimo said.

Estimo added that Defensor directed him to request the PSC to "realign the financial assistance to conform to the purpose for which it was solicited."

The NCFP secretary general said the PSC failed to act on that request, "thus putting us in the NCFP in a bind not of our own doing."

Torre, Paragua lead Filway chess entries

GRANDMASTER Eugene Torre and GM-candidate Mark Paragua head the cast of the Mindanao leg of the Filway/Time Life Open Active Chess Championship set April 2-3 at the Entertainment Area of SM City-Davao in Davao City.

Like the inaugural leg held in Manila, the tournament sponsored by Filway Marketing president/CEO Hector Tagaysay is divided into four divisions—the Open, Women's, Boys' 12-under and Girls' 12-under.

The tournament offers P30,000 to the Open champion, P10,000 to the Women's champion and P4,000 each to the Boys' 12-under and Girls' 12-under champions.

Other renowned woodpushers expected to participate are Filway-Time Luzon/NCR leg champion IM Ronald Bancod, reigning Asian 3.2a zonal champion IM Ronald Dableo, IM Jayson Gonzales, IMs Richard Bitoon, Barlo Nadera, FM Jesse Noel Sales, NMs Darwin Laylo, Mario Rebano, Reggie Olay, Prospero Cruz and RP five-time executive champion Jenny Mayor. For inquiries, contact project director Willie Abalos at 0921-6219898 or tournament director Ronnie Tabudlong at 0918-906-7233. *NM Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

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Race 5—1. Wrecking Ball 2. Best in Class 3. Hot Babe

Race 6—1. Presidentiable 2. Powerhouse 3. Mas Que Nada

Race 7—1. Real Spicy/Euro Bucks 2. Speed Advantage/Speed Majesty 3. One Vision/Joint Account 4. Golden Fantasy

Race 8—1. Little Girl 2. Vitality 3. Battle Hero 4. Doña Gelay 5. Friendly Venture

Race 9—1. Mercurian 2. Roughneck 3. Il Amorosa 4. Macho Guwapito

Race 10—1. War Alert 2. Hello Happy 3. Aya's Star 4. Parrot Moe

Race 11—1. Half Medium 2. Blitzkrieg 3. I Don't Dance 4. Dancing Slew

Race 12—1. Silver Cho Cho 2. En Carta 3. Star Material 4. Simply Gold

Race 13—1. Guts 2. Red Thunder 3. Play it Again 4. Great Year 5. Serendipity 6. Morning Glory

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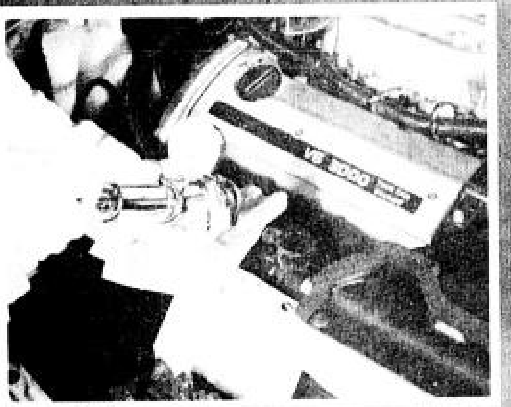

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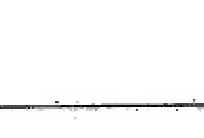

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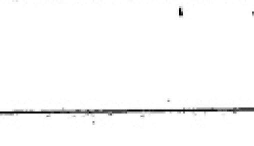

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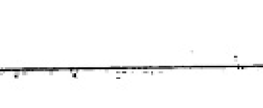

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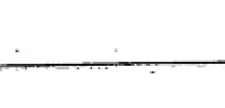

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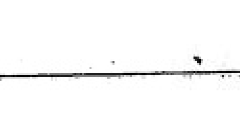

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Howell, Ames lead at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Florida—Charles Howell III and Stephen Ames were atop the leaderboard in the Bay Hill Invitational on Friday, among only 30 players to complete the second round.

After the first day was cut short by rain, Howell ended a marathon day on Friday with another short birdie putt that gave him rounds of 71-68, giving him a share of the early lead.

Ames also played 36 holes and posted the same scores. He birdied five of six holes in one stretch, then finished with a 5-foot par to join Howell at 5-under 139.

Vijay Singh, who can return to No. 1 in the world with a victory this weekend, struck the ball flawlessly but couldn't make a putt. He found a solution on the eighth hole by not having to putt—the Fijian holed out from 152 yards with a 9-iron and wound up with rounds of 72 and 68, leaving him one shot behind.

"I just didn't make any putts all day," Singh said.

Their position won't be clear until the other 84 players finish their rounds—37 of them, including Tiger Woods and Ernie Els, did not tee off and could wind up playing 36 holes on Saturday.

Joe Ogilvie wound up as the first-round leader, finishing with a 68 and then returning more than nine hours later to play the first three holes of his second round. He birdied No. 3 and was at 5 under.

It all was caused by rain that washed out all but three hours on Thursday, which kept Howell & Co. idle and left them quite busy on Friday. The only other time Howell recalled playing 36 holes in one day as a professional was at the Presidents Cup two years ago in South Africa. *AP*

Davenport shuts out Sharapova

INDIAN WELLS, California—Lindsay Davenport and Kim Clijsters reached the women's final while Andre Agassi withdrew with a sore and swollen toe at the Pacific Life Open on Friday.

Top-ranked Davenport crushed Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova, 6-0, 6-0, to snap the Russian's 12-match winning streak, while Clijsters beat Elena Dementieva, 6-4, 6-2, to set up a rematch of the 2003 final, which Clijsters won.

Davenport won the Indian Wells title in 1997 and 2000, and lost the final the last two years.

Agassi pulled out of his scheduled quarterfinal against Lleyton Hewitt, the first time he was unable to take the court for a match in his storied career of 1,092 matches.

In a night match, Andy Roddick moved into the semifinals with a 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-1 victory over Carlos Moya in a duel of former No. 1 players.

Roddick served 13 aces and was deadly at the net, volleying for 30 points on the way to the win over his Spanish opponent. Moya had five aces and won 21 points at the net.

Roddick faces Hewitt in one semifinal Saturday, and No. 1 Roger Federer plays Guillermo Canas in the other. *AP*

LINDSAY Davenport plays perfectly against Maria Sharapova. AP

Pacers' Miller burns Lakers

INDIANAPOLIS—Reggie Miller scored a season-high 39 points Friday, his highest total in nearly 4 1/2 years as the Indiana Pacers held off a fourth-quarter rally to defeat the Los Angeles Lakers, 103-97.

Miller made a three-pointer with 59 seconds left to give the Pacers a 95-90 lead, then made six straight free throws in the final 24.8 seconds to seal the victory.

"Hopefully, I won't always have nights like this, but right now we're short-handed," said Miller, who will retire after this season. "Stephen (Jackson) and myself recognize that we are going to take the brunt of the scoring load each and every night, so we both try to take an active role of getting into games early."

Miller's 39 points were his most since he had 41 against Milwaukee on Nov. 8, 2000.

"When you can score your age in this league, it's not time to quit," Lakers coach Frank Hamblen said of the 39-year-old Miller. "If I were Reggie's agent, I'd try to sign him to a multiyear contract."

Jackson had 19 points and five assists, and Anthony Johnson added 13 points and 11 assists for the Pacers, who improved to 5-2 in their last seven games.

In other games, New Jersey torched Utah, 94-80; New York routed Atlanta, 106-92; Philadelphia ambushed Cleveland, 93-81; Detroit hammered Toronto, 103-92; Memphis tripped Minnesota, 88-83; Milwaukee stopped Washington, 99-90; San Antonio whipped Charlotte, 93-76; New Orleans edged Chicago, 94-90; Boston creamed Houston, 103-92; Denver nipped the Los Angeles Clippers, 115-112; Golden State upset Phoenix, 110-100; and Seattle zapped Orlando, 98-90.

In Cleveland, Allen Iverson tore the bandage off his chipped thumb and scored 31 points, and Chris Webber added 14—including an audacious 3-pointer to start Philadelphia's game-ending 16-2 push over Cleveland.

Kyle Korver added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who improved to 6-5 since Webber arrived in a trade.

With the 24-shot clock running down, Webber picked up a loose ball in front of Cleveland's bench and flung in his 3-pointer to put Philadelphia ahead 80-79. The 76ers then held the Cavaliers without a field goal over the final 6:51.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 10 of his 23 points in the pivotal third quarter, and Jason Kidd had 10 points, nine assists and eight rebounds to lead New Jersey over Utah.

Carter and Kidd sat out the fourth quarter with the Nets firmly in command.

Andrei Kirilenko led Utah with 15 points as the Jazz dropped their eighth straight game.

Utah managed to keep the game close until midway through the third quarter when New Jersey reeled off 11 straight points for a 62-47 lead. After Matt Harpring scored for Utah, Brian Scalabrine scored the next six points to give New Jersey a 68-49 lead.

In Atlanta, Stephon Marbury scored 24 points and Tim Thomas added 23 as New York beat Atlanta to keep its playoff hopes alive.

The Knicks held Atlanta without a field goal for nearly nine minutes after Tom Gugliotta's jumper forced an 84-84 tie with 9:40 left. *AP*

CHRI

Samaritans for the Season

The word 'Samaritan' is synonymous with aid and assistance voluntarily or freely given to those in need. In this modern age, it's refreshing to know that there are still people or companies that take the role of Good Samaritans, caring for the safety and welfare of other people. When Filipino motorists begin their journeys to their hometowns and provinces during this year's Holy Week, they can do so with the knowledge that a helping hand is never far away. This is a commitment that Caltex takes each year in order to make travel on the road that much more enjoyable and reward-filled even in this solemn time of the year. As part of the Caltex Summer Samaritan 2005 Motorist Assistance Program, Caltex has prepared a series of invaluable services and refreshing giveaways for travelers who pass by the 108 Caltex stations from Batangas to La Union.

From March 23 to 27, except during Good Friday on March 25, motorists can avail of car checks courtesy of Toyota and Isuzu plus freebies like Milo Ice Cream Sticks, Chai-Li Won Natural Green Tea, Ho-Mi Noodles, C2 Green Tea and Globe items at participating Caltex Star Mart Stations. On the roads there will be roving motorist assistance from Metrowatch. And of course, for those unavoidable stops due to the call of nature, travelers can look forward to finding clean restrooms at Caltex for their use.

So when you start off for your Holy Week pilgrimage, family reunion, recollection or much-needed vacation, you can rest easy in the knowledge that good Samaritans are just a Caltex Station away.

CALTEX
Summer Samaritan 2005
MOTORIST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This Lenten Season, the Caltex Summer Samaritan 2005 Motorist Assistance Program assures you of a reward-filled and trouble-free trip out of town.

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  (This service is available at all Xpress Lubes Outlets in the Greater Manila Area, from March 14 to March 18, 2005)
- **Get up to Php500 off on Lubricant Power Packs and Php250 off on the Caltex LPG Tankito Set at the participating Pre-departure Caltex stations.**

Holy Week Offerings**
(from March 23 to 27, except March 25, Good Friday)

SERVICES:
- Car check from Toyota and Isuzu
- Roving motorist assistance from Metrowatch
- Clean restrooms

FREE GIVEAWAYS:
- Milo Ice Cream Stick
- C2 Green Tea
- Ho-Mi Noodles
- Chai Li Won Natural Green Tea
- Globe items

Caltex Stations

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For pre-departure car check, visit any of these Caltex stations:

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- Ortigas Ave./McKinley, San Juan
- Alabang-Zapote Road, Madrigal, Muntinlupa City
- Dr. A. Santos Avenue (Sucat Road), Parañaque City
- Alabang-Zapote Road, Filinvest, Muntinlupa City
- Ninoy Aquino San Dionisio, Kabihasnan, Parañaque City
- Gil Puyat Ave./Leveriza, Pasay City
- Pasay Road/Amorsolo St., Makati City
- Pres. Quirino Ave., Pandacan, Manila
- EDSA/Connecticut, San Juan
- EDSA/Boni Ave., Mandaluyong City
- Gil Puyat Ave. & Malugay St., Makati City
- Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- EDSA/Harvard, Makati City
- Ireneville Subd., Sucat Road, Parañaque City
- Congressional Ave., Quezon City
- San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna
- E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
- Pres. Quirino Ave./A. Mabini, Manila
- BF Homes, Parañaque City
- Mia Road/Domestic Road, Pasay City*
- M. Concepcion St., Bo. Buting, Pasig City
- Marcos Highway, Pasig City
- EDSA/U. Plata St., Caloocan City
- Meralco Ave./J. Vargas, Pasig City
- NFPC, R-10, Navotas
- Amoranto/Apo, Quezon City
- Andalucia/Laong Laan, Sampaloc, Manila*
- Manila East Road, Taytay, Rizal
- Sumulong Highway, Mayamot, Antipolo, Rizal
- Kamias/Anonas, Quezon City
- P. Tuazon cor. 17th/18th Ave., Cubao, Quezon City
- Katipunan/Boni Serrano, Quezon City
- C. Raymundo, Pasig City
- EDSA/Bo. Kangkong, Quezon City*
- National Highway, San Pedro, Laguna*
- Imus, Cavite
- Blumentritt/Dimasalang, Sampaloc, Manila*
- San Francisco St., Mandaluyong City
- Gov. Drive, Bo. Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Quirino Highway Bgy. Bagbag, Novaliches, Quezon City
- C. Raymundo Ave./Bernal St., Pasig City
- Shaw Blvd cor. Pioneer Ave., Pasig City
- Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
- F.P. Felix Ave., Cainta, Rizal
- J.P. Rizal/Calasanz, Makati City
- EDSA/Mariano Ponce St., Caloocan City
- Vito Cruz Ext., Makati City
- Marcos Highway, Antipolo, Rizal*
- A. Bonifacio/Tagaytay St. Quezon City
- A. Mabini St., Caloocan City
- G. Araneta cor. NS Amoranto, Talayan Village, Quezon City
- Alejandro Roces Ave./South EE, Quezon City
- E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave./Sunny Side, Quezon City
- Manggahan Floodway, Pasig City
- C-4 Road, Dagat-Dagatan Dev't. Project, Malabon
- Regalado Ave./Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
- Amang Rodriguez Ave., Santolan, Pasig City
- Kamagong / Sampaloc, Makati City
- Km.28, Aguinaldo Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- West Service Road, Parañaque City
- Quezon Ave./Apo, Quezon City*
- E. Aguinaldo Highway, Anabu, Imus, Cavite
- J.P. Rizal St., Concepcion, Marikina
- Gen. Luna St., Sitio Balanti, Ampid, San Mateo,
- E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Pasig City
- Nayong Pilipino Mia Rd., Pasay City
- M.H. Del Pilar/Gov. Pascual, Tugatog, Malabon
- Gov. Drive, Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Timog/Bohol, Quezon City
- Pasong Tamo, Makati City
- EDSA/Malibay, Pasay City
- Visayas Ave., Quezon City*
- Del Monte Ave., Quezon City*
- Regalado cor. Mindanao Ave.
- EDSA Pasay City

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HOLY WEEK
For motorist assistance from March 23 to 27 (except March 25, Good Friday), visit any of these Caltex stations:

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- Kumintang, Batangas City
- Poblacion San Pascual, Batangas
- Poblacion Lemery, Batangas
- National Hi-way, Balayan, Batangas
- Lucena City
- Techno Park, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
- Imus, Cavite
- Emilio Aguinaldo Hi-way, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Tagaytay City, Rotonda, Cavite
- Barangay Halang, Calamba, Laguna
- San Pablo, Laguna
- SLEX Superstation 1

NORTH
- Tarlac, Tarlac
- Capas, Tarlac
- Carmen, Pangasinan
- Mac Arthur Hi-way, Urdaneta Pangasinan (South Bound)
- Mac Arthur Hi-way, Urdaneta Pangasinan (North Bound)
- Alaminos, Pangasinan
- Rosario, La Union
- Chanum cor. Otek St., Burnham, Baguio
- Agoo, La Union
- Olongapo-Gapan Road, Guagua, Pampanga
- Sta. Rita, Olongapo City, Olongapo
- Maharlika Hi-way, Cabanatuan
- Daan Sarile, Cabanatuan
- Plaridel, Bulacan
- Upper Session Road, Baguio
- Angeles City
- NFPC, R-10, Navotas

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Vermont logs upset; Duke advances

WORCESTER, Massachusetts—Tom Brennan called his Vermont Catamounts a dangerous team. Syracuse found out just how dangerous.

Germain Mopa Njila and T.J. Sorrentine hit consecutive 3-pointers in a 48-second span of overtime, and the 13th-seeded Catamounts upset the Big East champions, 60-57, Friday night in the first round of the US college NCAA tournament.

When Gerry McNamara missed a desperation triple from the top of the key in the final seconds, the Cats had their first tournament triumph. They swarmed together and hugged in celebration, jumping up and down as Brennan raised his right arm in triumph.

Brennan, who is retiring at the end of the season, continually brushed tears from his eyes after beating a Syracuse team that had hopes of making the Final Four for the second time in three years.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim left the court with his head down, and the players followed.

Vermont (25-6) advanced to play Michigan State in the second round of the Austin Regional.

In Worcester, Massachusetts, fifth-seeded Michigan State couldn't pull away until the final minutes, when Shannon Brown made a spinning layin to start a three-point play that helped the Spartans beat Old Dominion, 89-81.

Michigan State (23-6) managed to avoid a second straight first-round exit and instead gave coach Tom Izzo his 20th tournament win—his NCAA record is second only to Duke's Mike Krzyzewski's.

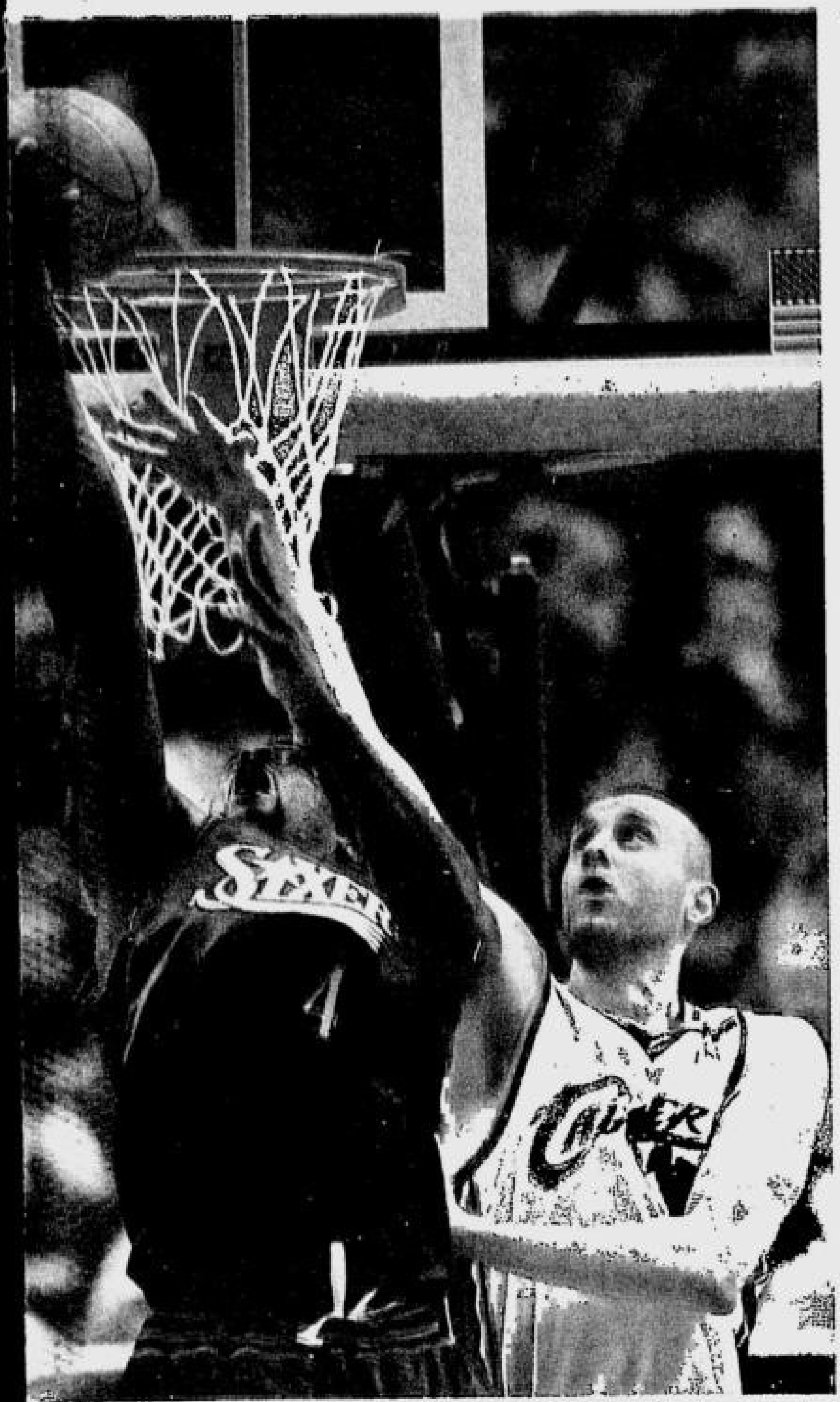
Brown scored 13 points, and Alan Anderson had 15 to lead five Spartans in double figures. Michigan State shot 57 percent (29-for-51) from the floor in the game, and that was despite making just three of 14 shots from 3-point range.

Alex Loughton had 22 points, 11 rebounds and six assists for Old Dominion (28-6) after playing much of the second half in the foul trouble.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Shelden Williams had 14 points and 11 rebounds and the top-seeded Blue Devils gave Coach K his 65th career victory in the tournament via a 57-46 triumph over Delaware State.

In 21 NCAA tournaments, Krzyzewski is 65-17, tying Dean Smith's total for the most career victories.

This one certainly was expected, even though Duke (26-5) had a hard time in the Austin Regional. The Blue Devils struggled throughout with the Hornets (19-13) despite having guard Sean Dockery back for the first time in seven games after he recovered from a knee injury. *AP*



S Webber scores on a reverse dunks against Zydrunas Ilgauskas. AP

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What Drives You

BATANGAS
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Avoiding penance on the road

We at Caltex know that once you hit the road, safety is always your primary concern. That is why each year at Lent, through the Caltex Summer Samaritan, we extend our service and a helping hand to motorists like you. To give you a reward-filled and trouble-free trip this Holy Week.

What Drives You CALTEX

Staying Whole During Holy Week

As you and your family set off for your yearly excursion during the Semana Santa, here are some tips to keep yourselves safe and secure on the road.

Make a List. Check it twice.
No, it's not Christmas, but it pays to be meticulous in planning your journey. Jot down everything you need for your trip, and tick off things as you get them together. It's very easy to miss or forget something as small as bandages or even underwear when crunch time comes. In any case, you can always pick up essentials like toiletries, medicine, sun block, food and refreshments at Star Mart outlets in Caltex Stations on the way.

Tune up the Family Car.
Make sure beforehand that the vehicle is in tip-top shape. Go to your nearest Caltex Station and avail of the car check from Toyota and Isuzu. Make sure the oil's been changed, the tank full and a spare tire's in the trunk. And have the DVDs you want ready for those with players in their rides.

Do it before you go.
And of course, try to go to the bathroom as much as possible before you hit the road. Getting hit by the call of nature on a lonely stretch of road is pretty inconvenient, but hey-good restrooms are just a Caltex Station away.

With all your preparations ready, all that's left is to say a prayer. You've done your best, so let God do the rest. May you all have a peaceful and safe Lenten Season, from Caltex.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

New billiards board prepares for SEAG

ERNESTO Fajardo (third from left) leads a post election huddle that included (from left) Arturo Bong Ilagan, secretary general, Sebastian Chua, board member; Aristeo Puyat, director; Mahar Mangahas, board member; Johanna Dee, treasurer and Yen Makabenta, chair.

PREPARATIONS for the fielding of a super strong billiards team to the Southeast Asian Games this November topped the agenda of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BCSP) which elected a new board and officers the other day.

Ernesto Fajardo was reelected unopposed as president in recognition of his dedicated leadership and efforts to widen club membership during the elections held at the Philippine Columbian in Manila.

Elected to the new board of directors aside from Fajardo were Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Yen Makabenta, Arturo Ilagan and Willie Caballes.

The board later picked Makabenta as chair, Ilagan as secretary general, Johanna Y. Dee as treasurer and Romeo "Boy" Togonon as public relations officer.

Fajardo thanked the enthusiastic participation, for the first time, of noted billiards players, patrons and aficionados in the affair of the club.

He also pointed out that no less than the acknowledged father of Philippine billiards, Putch Puyat, is now a BSCP member and director.

The other notable new members are billiards ace Efren "Bata" Reyes, Star Billiards Center owner Sebastian Chua, Mahar Mangahas of Social Weather Stations (SWS), PR consultant Tony Baranda, patrons Julius Nidea and Jonathan Sy, and Jimmy Chongco, noted billiards referee.

Fajardo said he would announce soon the progress of preparations for the SEA Games and the ambitious program of the BCSP this year.

During the meeting, Fajardo reported that two tryouts had been held for the selection of the Philippine men's and women's teams.

He said two sets of players from the men's pool have joined Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante in the San Miguel Asian Tour.

In addition, new BCSP board member Sy sponsored the participation of Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Leonardo "Dodong" Andam in the ongoing Japan Open.

Iloilo to host Palaro return on May 8-15

Drilon, Tupas infuse funds

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IT'S all systems go for the Palarong Pambansa!

The sportsfest for elementary and high school students returns after a yearlong absence in Iloilo City this May with fresh funding coming from Senate President Franklin Drilon and Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas.

This year's Palaro will have regional eliminations on April 24-29, while the actual Games will fire off May 8-15 in Iloilo City, according to Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, who brokered talks that led to the involvement of Drilon and Tupas in reviving the event.

Drilon and Tupas have committed P10 million each in addition to the P20 million budget allocated by no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo last month. The Palaro was last held in 2003 in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

Puentevella said Palaro's return is a welcome development for aspiring athletes who were not able to see action last year after the sportsfest was shelved due to financial constraints.

The Department of Education will be handling the Palaro again following a decision by the Philippine Sports Commission to give it up since it was eating up into its meager budget.

While the PSC ran the Palaro starting in 2000, the expenses for the event were not included in the General Appropriations Act, forcing the government sports agency to give it back to DepEd.

The Palaro regionals, usually held in February, was moved to April this year following Education Sec. Butch Abad's request not to hold sporting events during the school year.

PARTICIPANTS of the First Philippine Velo Challenge try to complete their run at the Amoranto Velodrome Sports Complex.

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

RP cyclists lead Ormoc tilt

NATIONAL cyclists, along with over 500 cycling enthusiasts, including mountain bikers and road race and BMX aficionados, are expected to participate in the 4th Terry Larrazabal Bike Festival in Ormoc City, Leyte next month.

The bike festival will be held from April 1 to 3, and will feature mountain bike cross-country and downhill races, road bike circuit and sprint competitions, dirt jumping and BMX races.

Among those expected to participate in the event are National Cycling Team members Eric Feliciano, Eboy Quiñones, Arnel Querimit, Lloyd Reynante, Marites Bibit and Marita Lucas. According to festival director Gregorio Larrazabal, who is also the country's representative to the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), the event will likewise feature biking seminars, cycling clinics for kids, and a "bisikletiangge."

Larrazabal said Sen. Pia Cayetano has confirmed her participation in the festival, which is also endorsed by the Department of Tourism as well as bike clubs such as the Federation of Off-Road Cycling Enthusiasts.

"The festival, which we started in 2002 in honor of my father, the late Ormoc City Mayor Emeterio Larrazabal Sr., aims to promote cycling not only as a sport but also as an effective tool to promote physical fitness and environmental awareness," Larrazabal said.

BSCP polls void, De Tagle insists

JOAQUIN de Tagle, former secretary general of the Billiards and Snookers Congress of the Philippines, insisted yesterday that the election that reinstalled president Ernesto Fajardo was null and void.

Among several documents, De Tagle presented a letter from the Securities and Exchange Commission that had revoked BSCP's license since September 2003.

Thus, according to de Tagle, the billiards association is legally nonexistent.

But Saguisag and Associates, Fajardo's legal counsel, stressed that its client had "no knowledge of the supposed revocation of the license of the corporation."

According to de Tagle, BSCP hasn't been submitting its financial reports to SEC after neglecting to reconstitute its executive board.

In the original SEC registration, there were only five BSCP board of directors. Only Fajardo, de Tagle and Arturo Ilagan Jr. were left after Ruben Roque and Edgar Acaba resigned from the board.

Fajardo, though, stressed that Yen Makabenta and Putch Puyat were already elevated as members of the new executive board last Feb. 28.

Fajardo retained his post as BSCP head in an election held Friday. *Jasmine W. Payo*

SPORTSWATCH

F1 Club presents Malaysian GP

THE MILD Seven F1 Club celebrates its team's great start of the season with the live viewing of the 2005 Malaysian Grand Prix at the Comfort Zone at Speedzone, Fort Bonifacio Global City at 2 p.m. today. With the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team winning 1st and 3rd places in the inaugural Australian GP, the rest of the pack will now try to catch up with great pace and reliability shown by the winning team. The 2005 Speedzone-MP Turbo Endurance Kart Championship Series will have its first four-hour endurance race during the event.

Petron cites taekwondo jin

REGULAR taekwondo sponsor Petron yesterday cited youthful Ilocano jin Julius Cinco for his recent victory in the US Open championships at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. "Petron is proud of him (Cinco). His triumph is definitely a big boost to the sport here," said Charmaine Canillas of Petron. Cinco produced the lone gold for the Philippine team, which was sponsored by Petron. Three other Petron RP team mebers—Czarino Cabuco of Laguna, Jhon Ferdinand Bahoy of Las Piñas and Kimberly Mae Menchavez also won a medal each. Cabuco took a silver, while Bahoy and Menchavez got a bronze each.

Bakbakan 7-Bullstag Derby at Araneta

A GUARANTEED prize of P1.5 million or more is up for grabs in the NFGB Bakbakan 7—Bullstag Derby, a gathering of more than 200 gamefowl breeders all over the country, which will be held on April 18, 19 and 21 at the Araneta Coliseum. National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders president Ricoy Palmares said this is the first time the NFGB is staging a bullstag derby. Interested parties may call Tukaan office at 721-2566 or LGBA at 926-7808 and 924-5072.

IN THE BLOOD: Father and son Tom and Marlon Stockringer, driving for Swiss Finance and Investment Corp., Birel, Intrepid, Puma, Lima Hotel, Le Souffle and Kart Care, took second and first place in the Senior Rotax Max Category during the first leg of the Shell Super Karting Series.

Coach mom dies, 62

ROSLINA R. Cadang, mother of former Laguna Lakers assistant coach Louie Cadang, died Friday after a heart attack. She was 62. She is survived by husband Alfonso, children Louie, Loglog, Tony, Sandra, Edgar, Ponchie and Bernard and grandchildren. Her remains lie at the family residence at C. Dans St. in Paete, Laguna. Interment will be announced later.

Pacquiao wears Pony in Nevada showdown

SANTA BARBARA, California—Pony International yesterday announced that Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao will wear a custom-made Pony "Pac Man" boxing shoes in his showdown against Erik "El Terible" Morales at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, today.

The super featherweight world title fight will be telecast worldwide and will see the Philippine boxing superstar wear Pony in the ring.

Pacquiao, who is known for his quick side-to-side movement, selected the Center Ring Middleweight with soft full-grain leather upper as his fight night shoe in his preferred white and red colorway.

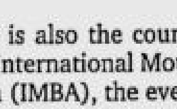
Imprinted on the left and right sides of his high-cut shoes is his "Pac Man" moniker.

Pacquiao also wore Pony during his fourth-round TKO victory over Fasan 3K Battery last December.

Other Pony endorsers include Evander Holyfield, Larry Holmes, James Toney, Joe Frazier, George Foreman and Ken Norton.

Morales' only chance

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THIS is what I've been thinking all day long yesterday.

For Erik "El Teribile" Morales to score a sure victory over Manny "Pac Man" Pacquiao today, he should have enlisted the services of Angelo Dundee.

Remember him, the guy with aviator glasses and with a parrot beak for a nose?

Angelo Dundee is best remembered as the trainer of Muhammad Ali.

Ali, in case there is an 8-year-old kid boxing buff out there reading this piece today, is the greatest boxer of all time.

But I remember Angelo Dundee not as Ali's trainer, though.

I remember Angelo Dundee as the trainer of Sugar Ray Leonard when Leonard beat the legendary Marvelous Marvin Hagler in 1987 to capture the world middleweight crown.

OK, a flashback.

Leonard had come out of a five-year retirement, listened to every word that Angelo Dundee told him and went on to steal a split decision over Hagler in 12 rounds that stunned the world but not Angelo Dundee.

"Box, box, move and glide," Dundee kept telling Leonard in the corner during that classic Leonard-Hagler fight. "Don't trade shots with this guy. That's a no-no."

Leonard ought to listen. He was fighting not a human being but a killing machine: Hagler hadn't lost in 11 years.

Today, Morales could also be fighting a killing machine in Pacquiao: The Pac Man hadn't lost in his last eight fights, winning seven of them by KO and drawing the last one last May against Juan Manuel Marquez, Morales' countryman. And, like Hagler, Pacquiao is also a southpaw. In boxing, the hardest to beat is a southpaw.

I'm saying these things because all indications point to a Pacquiao victory by knockout over Morales in the fight scheduled for 12 rounds at the MGM Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada.

That is so because for one thing, Morales is not a known boxer, glider, or dancer if you will. He loves to mix it up, which is the stuff that makes Pacquiao at his deadliest.

For another, between the two, Pacquiao is concededly the stronger puncher. This is attested by Pacquiao's better percentage in the KO department: The Pac Man has knocked out 31 of his 39 victims, Morales 34 of 47.

Yes, it's true Morales hasn't been knocked out in 49 fights, and he has fought practically the best in his division, including his bitter rival, Marco Antonio Barrera. In fact, his two defeats were merely on points—both to Barrera—the last one coming only some months ago via a split decision.

But still, as I keep saying here, no one, not even Morales, can withstand the rock-hard punches of Pacquiao, especially Pac Man's left shot. In my estimation, Pacquiao could make Morales today his third Mexican victim in a row to kiss the canvas.

The first two Mexicans that Pacquiao had felled were no patsies: He knocked out Barrera in 11 rounds in 2003, and then decked Marquez three times in the first round in May 2004 in a fight that ended in a controversial split draw after 12 rounds.

I've always insisted that once Pacquiao connects, the receiver will, 99.99 percent of the time, land on the seat of his pants.

But Pacquiao will have to make it happen in the first five, even six, rounds. Otherwise, Pacquiao could be in serious trouble if the fight lasts the distance. Not necessarily because of Morales' world-renowned ring savvy but, more dangerously, because of the specter of a hometown decision.

Now if Morales, 28, had radically transformed his style from slugger to boxer and become the Sugar Ray Leonard of that 1987 fight with Marvin Marvelous Hagler, then that could be genuine trouble for Pacquiao, the 26-year-old former doughnut vendor from GenSan.

The question is, did Morales resurrect Angelo Dundee? I mean, were there efforts to lure Angelo Dundee back to boxing?

Nah and none.

Now, can a masterpiece like Angelo "Michelangelo" Dundee be copied by Morales' trainer for today's fight?

I doubt.

If they did, the best that Morales can do is to produce a repro. And, alas, against Pacquiao, that'd merely amount to a poor imitation.

Like the Sistine Chapel and Mona Lisa, there's only one Angelo Dundee. And a Sugar Ray Leonard can never be photocopied, today and forever.

It had to be Pacquiao or I'd go nuts.

By knockout.

JEROME Delariarte's four-shot lead is now down to two.
ROMY HOMILLADA

Delariarte still up by 2 over La'O in TCC Inv'l

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG, Laguna—Jherome Delariarte and Cookie La'O are close friends who've enjoyed success in different levels of their careers.

Their first victories as professionals could come at the expense of each other.

Shooting contrasting third-round scores in The Country Club Invitational yesterday, Delariarte and La'O set themselves up for a final 18-hole duel for the richest prize in local golf.

The 26-year-old Delariarte slowed down with a one-over 71 and saw his four-stroke overnight lead cut in half after a 68 churned out by La'O at the exclusive, windswept par-70 layout here.

Delariarte, twice a winner of the Philippine Amateur title, turned in his first over-par card in three rounds with nines of 36-35 for a 207 total. He had only two birdies against three bogeys.

La'O, on the other hand, rode a brilliant stretch in the middle of the round a flight ahead of Delariarte, duplicating his first round score to creep within two at 209 and ever so close to the P1.1 million first prize.

"It's part of the game," said La'O, who practiced and prepared for this tournament together with Delariarte. "There will be no special strategies. I will just play my game and wish him luck."

"It's going to be exciting, fun," added La'O, who actually moved within one after a birdie on the 12th hole. Then he gave up the stroke with a three-putt bogey on the 16th from 18 ft.

The defending champion Lascuña finally made his move, tying the course record with a 66 to gain an outside chance of repeating with a 212 total.

He was tied for fourth with burly Robert Pactolerin, one shot behind Mars Pucay, who had a 69 for 211.

Pactolerin, who fired a 67 Friday to start the third round just four shots down, matched par 72 even as veteran Danny Zarate caught former champion Cassius Casas in sixth with 213 totals after a 71.

The Scores after 54 holes:

207 – J. Delariarte (68-68-71) (36-35); 209 – C. La'O (68-73-68) (34-34; 211 – M. Pucay (71-71-69) (34-35); 212 – A. Lascuna (73-73-66) (33-33); R. Pactolerin (73-67-72) (36-36); 213 – D. Zarate, D. (70-72-71) (36-35); C. Casas (69-72-72) (36-36); 215 – B. Magada (68-72-75) (39-36); 216 – T. Asistio (a) (69-75-72) (38-34); G. Rosales (69-71-76) (39-37); 217 – M. Bibat (a) (71-77-69) (35-34); R. Pagunsan (70-77-70) (35-35); E. Salvador (70-72-75) (35-40); R. Sinfuego, R. (76-70-71) (36-35); C. Villaroman (72-69-76) (36-40).

Jenny gains, but Dorothy misses cut at Safeway tilt

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN, Arizona—Jennifer Rosales easily made the halfway cut but Dorothy Delasin struggled with a five-over-par 77 Friday to miss the weekend play of the Safeway International.

Rosales, winner of the LPGA's season-opening event in Hawaii last month, added a 73 to her opening 72 for a 36-hole total of 145.

But Delasin, who started with a 71, got derailed by five bogeys and a double bogey in her 39-38 trip and failed to advance with a two-round total of 148, one over the cut-off mark.

Rosales was out of the title race, however, as she trailed Lorena Ochoa of Mexico by 12 strokes.

Ochoa, the LPGA's rookie of the year two seasons ago, shot a 5-under 67 to open a two-shot lead with defending champion Annika Sorenstam three strokes behind and the resurgent Michelle Wie also in contention.

Ochoa won twice last year, but couldn't recall leading a professional tournament after two rounds.

Ochoa was on pace for an even bigger lead until she bogeyed the 14th hole. She birdied the 18th to finish at 12-under 132 halfway through the tour's first 72-hole event of the year.

South Korea's Soo-Yun Kang was second after a 66, and Sorenstam, the defending champion, was 9 under after a 69.

Siew-Ai Lim, who shared the first-round lead with Ochoa, was 7 under after a 72, with Grace Park (67) and Karen Stupples (71) 6 under.

Candie Kung (70) and Juli Inkster (73) were next at 5-under 139, and Wie followed her opening 73 with a 67 to join Laura Davies (69), Paula Creamer (71), Liselotte Neumann (70) and Laura Diaz (67) at 4 under.

The 15-year-old Wie rallied in the second round to run her string of consecutive cuts made to 11. She last missed a cut in August 2003, appeared to be in jeopardy of another early exit when she bogeyed the first hole.

But she recovered with an eagle and five birdies to get back in the hunt for her first LPGA title. Wie had her best finish against professional competition three weeks ago with a tie for second in her native Hawaii.

AP

AGOJO ROMY HOMILLADA

Southwoods bets shine; Agojo wins

MANILA Southwoods players dominated the 2nd Ladies Fil Am Golf Tournament in Baguio City last Saturday.

National player Anya Tanpingco tamed the 4,094-yard Camp John Hay course, submitting the best score for Southwoods with 52 of the team's final-round score of 192 points en route to the title in the premier FIL Sunflower (Group I) Division. Tanpingco also finished overall first runner-up in the individual race with 154 points. Manila Southwoods, which is composed mainly of national players, carded a three-round aggregate of 583 points (197-194)-192).

Also scoring for Southwoods in the final round are national training pool members Carmelette Villaroman (48) and Lora Roberto (47) and team skipper Bernadette Abiera (45).

The foursome of Claire Ong, Claudine Garcia, Sandy Velhagen and Heidi Schettkat pooled a final-round 168 points to hand Manila Southwoods the championship trophy also in the AM Sunflower Division with 460 points (145-147-168).

Reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion, Jayvie Agojo scored a total of 158 points to capture the overall individual honor and power Sta. Elena's first runner-up finish in the FIL Sunflower group with 558.

Miñoza 7 down after Round 3

SANYA, Hainan, China—Frankie Miñoza recovered with a two-under-par 70 Saturday but stayed deep in the pack in the wake of torrid scoring after three rounds of the $1 million TCL Classic here.

The ace Filipino shotmaker, with earlier rounds of 66-71, stood in a 10-way tie for 32nd place with a 207 total.

Miñoza was actually only seven strokes off the leading trio of Colin Montgomerie of Scotland, Paul Casey of England and Thailand's Chawalit Plaphol, who were tied at 16-under 200.

But the leadership board was so tightly bunched a total of 17 players were within four strokes or less of the frontrunners going into the final round of this event jointly sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the European Tour.

Using a broomhandle putter for the first time in two years, Miñoza hit the turn at two under following birdies on the fourth and eighth holes.

But he couldn't get any closer at the leaders after getting just one more birdie on the back nine against a bogey on the 10th.

Plaphol secured a piece of the lead for the second time in three years by firing a 66 at the scenic Yalong Bay Golf Club. He had earlier scored 64-70.

MIÑOZA ROMY HOMILLADA

The winner of last year's Vietnam Open, Que couldn't approximate the form that gave him a 70 Thursday. He hit the turn at four over with a double bogey and two bogeys and threw away birdies on the 11th and 12th with another double bogey on the 17th.

With the field coming up with another birdie binge at the scenic Yalong Bay Golf Club, Quiroz shot another 65 and grabbed a two-stroke lead with a 14-under 130 total.

Ryder Cuppers Montgomerie and Casey carded 68s as they moved up from a three-way tie for second in the second round.

Casey, who teamed up with Luke Donald to win the WGC-World Cup in Spain last year, shot 64-68 earlier while Montgomerie carded 67-65.

Montgomerie, who won the TCL title when the event was last held in 2002, hopes to qualify for the US Masters, the year's first major, with a high placing here. Ranked 54th, Colin has to break in the world's top 50 to make it to Augusta this April.

It will be an exciting final round with Thomas Bjorn of Denmark (68) and Terry Pilkadaris of Australia (68) sharing second at 201.

Second-round leader Alejandro Quiroz of Mexico cooled down with a two-over 72 but remained in contention, just two strokes behind at 202 in a tie with Ivo Giner of Spain (69), Keith Horne of South Africa (67) and Kang Wook-soon of South Korea (65).

Six players were tied at 203 while five more were deadlocked at 204.

A total of 72 players made it to the weekend after the 36-hole cut which, at six-under, was one of the lowest in both the Asian and European Tours.

Rosal ready to defend Sta. Elena Cup crown

BANK executive Abe Rosal returns a year after shooting spectacular gross 64 to defend the low gross plum with Jojo Guingona in the ninth staging of the Sta. Elena Cup member-guest invitational tournament slated on March 31 to April 3.

The defending titlists lead a field of more than 200 teams that also includes Ladies Open champ Jayvie Agojo and former national seniors titleholder Iggy Clavecilla in the 36-hole tourney.

Globe Platinum, Royal Caribbean International, Baron Travel/Golf Shop, Omega watches, Mizuno and Toyota Motors Philippines, Inc. (TMPI) make up the roster of major sponsors.

Save for the many tournament and raffle items up for grabs, participants are also set to receive a premium item as a giveaway.

Mizuno is giving each Sta. Elena Cup player the newest stick out of the giant clubmaker's factory in Japan, the Mizuno T-Blue putter. The local release of the putter is even ahead of the T-Blue's worldwide launch.

"It's certainly a big privilege for Sta. Elena Cup players to be the first to try out the T-Blue putter," said Sta. Elena manager Junie Ledesma.

Toyota is staking the Innova as a hole-in-one prize on a designated hole. Carts from Kart Plaza Mfg./Yamaha and Club Car are the other prizes for aces.

Agojo is the guest partner of Rio Co while Clavecilla is bringing in Mari Hechanova in a bid for the low gross plum.

Sta. Elena is a three-time winner of the Club of the Year award of the INQUIRER Golf Monthly.

Exciting prizes in PASI golfest at Wack Wack

EXCITING prizes for team and individual winners are up for grabs in the Philippine Association of Supermarket, Inc. (PASI) Invitational golf tournament set on Friday, March 31 at the Wack Wack west course.

Organizing committee head Renato Guevarra enjoined interested participants to register before the March 28 deadline.

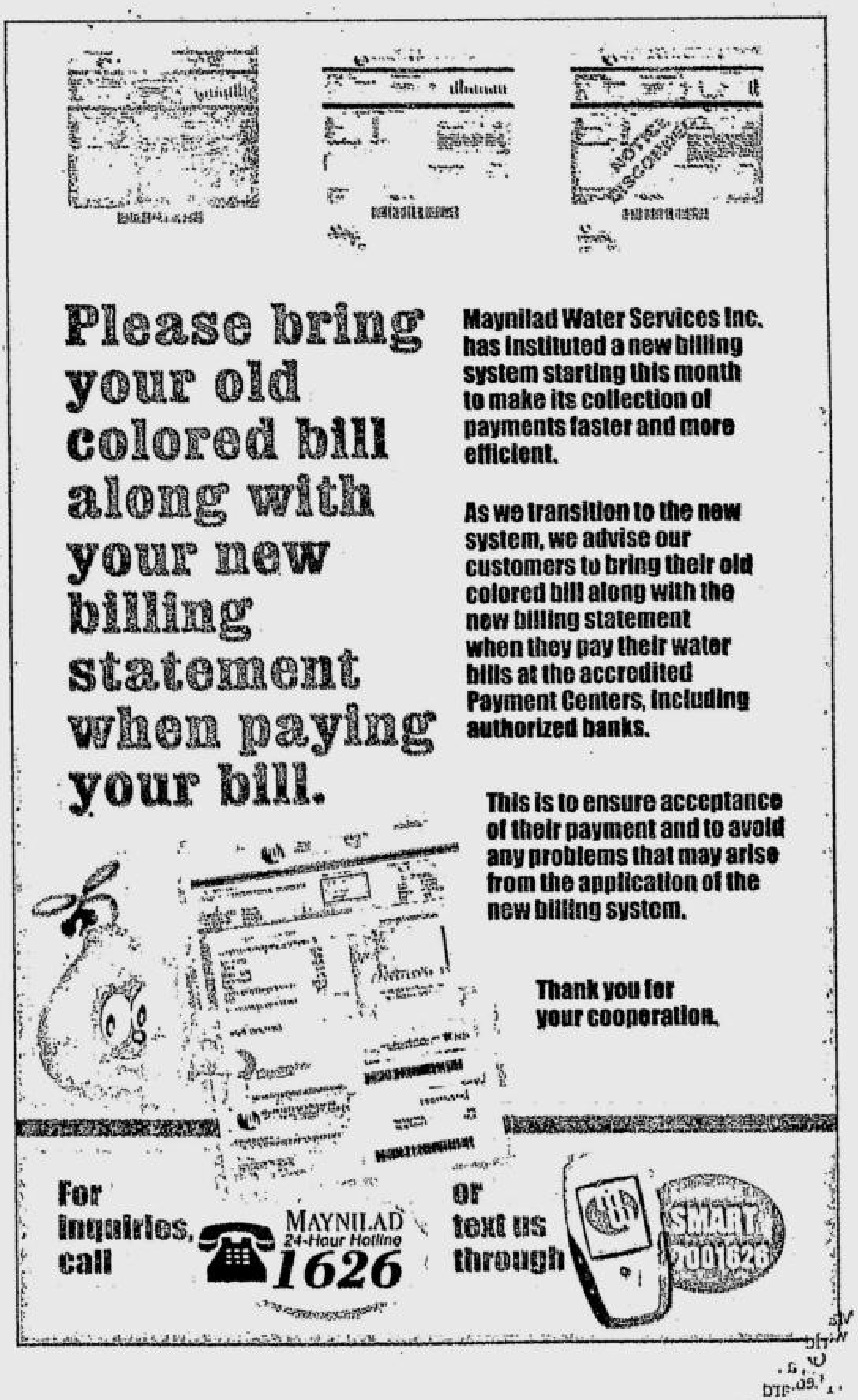
Tournament fee is P12,000 per three-man team inclusive of green fees, script money, giveaways, buffet dinner, raffle ticket and the minimum caddie fee of P500.

For inquiries, call Ruth Perez at 3628349.

About 120 players representing 40 teams from the retail industry are expected to play in the the tourney, which has San Miguel Corporation and Coca Cola Bottlers,Inc. as major sponsors.

The other sponsors are Selecta, Nestle Phils./Nescafe, Nestle Ice Cream, Unilever, Selecta, Sara Lee Phils., McKenzie Distribution, SC Johnson & Son, Marina Sales, Inc and Gardenia.

The three-to-play, two-to-count team competition will feature the food and non-food sectors where a team may be represented by the participating company's executives, dealers or clients.



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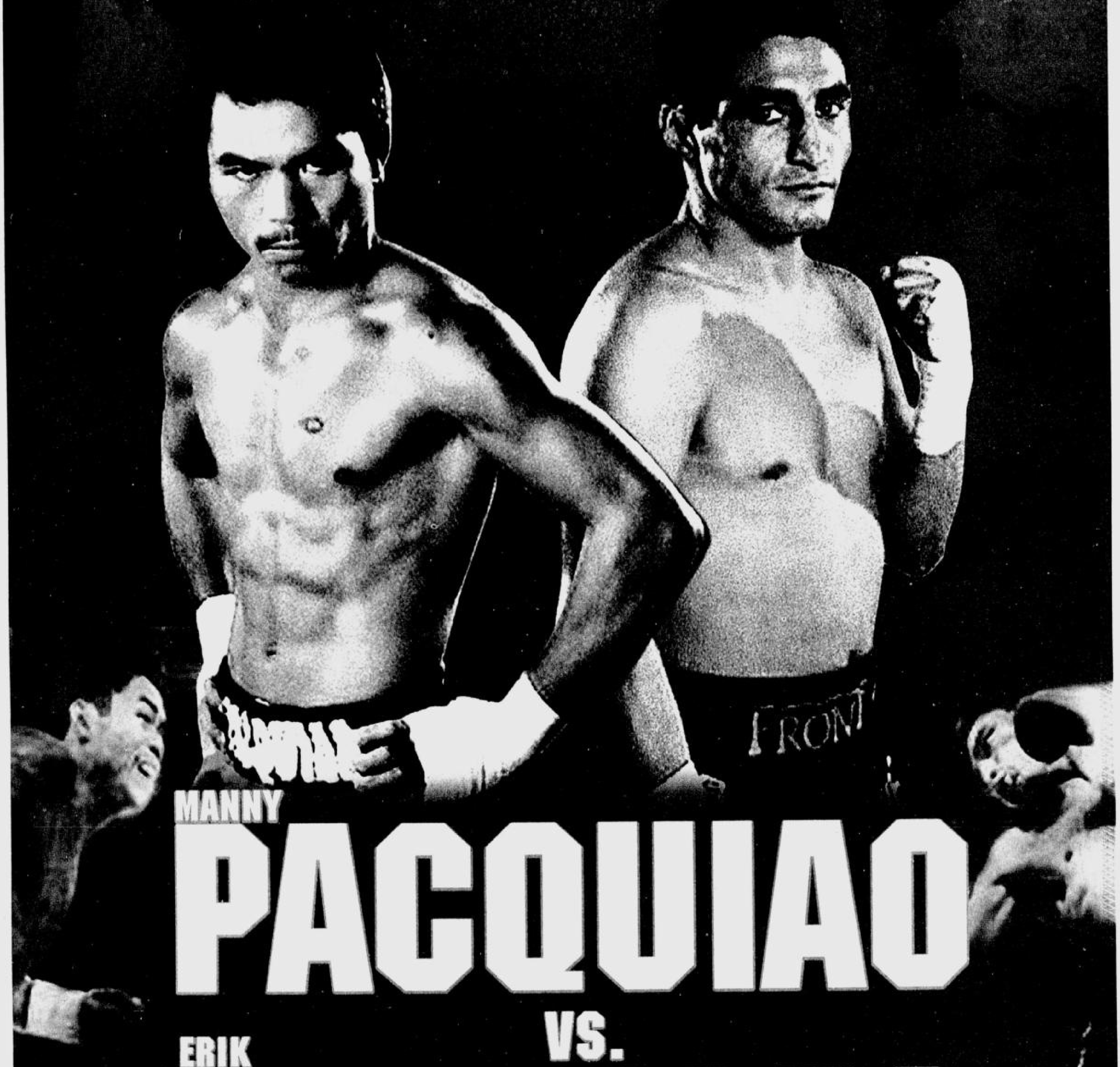

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

Sandara headed for home

By Nini Valera

ABS-CBN not giving her voice workshops, she says

SANDARA Park is leaving for her native Korea next week to take up singing lessons because, the young actress said, ABS-CBN's Talent Center would not give her voice workshops here.

"I'm not a good singer," Sandara told INQUIRER Entertainment on Thursday after a press con for her movie "Can This Be Love." That was why she asked for workshops, she said. "But they're not giving me (any). That's one of the reasons I'm going to Korea. While studying, I can have my voice lessons."

She confessed that she would like to be able to sing like Sarah Geronimo, who sang the theme song of the movie, directed by Jose Javier Reyes.

"It's my dream (to be a singer)," Sandara confided. "I also want to act, but I prefer to sing. I've [brought this up with] Talent Center, but they don't make me *pansin* (they ignore me). People say I don't have talent. That's why I want to learn, so they will not say that anymore."

She has to do it in Korea, the actress said. "If I'm here, I won't have the time ...they want me to do another soap."

Not a priority

Rikka Dylim, PR manager of Star Magic, said the reason that Sandara had not been given voice workshops was "because so many opportunities came in and her singing [is] not a priority.. it's her acting that's being honed."

However, Rikka said, "We will get there. [For now] she is being given the chance to work with good directors. Acting is one aspect of her talent."

Earlier, an e-mail from Sandara was sent to newspapers to announce her plans for further acting and singing lessons in Korea. She will be there for at least five months, leaving behind her popularity here and her intriguing entanglements with Hero Angeles and Joseph Bitanggol.

Novelty singer

As it is, even without voice lessons, Sandara's first album, the novelty record "In and Out" under Star Records, has sold at least 100,000 copies, certified platinum by local standards. To this add the sale of at least 300,000 bootleg copies, and Sandara's album is a monster hit.

Sandara, 20, is leaving with her mother. But she will return in April—she did not say exactly when—to promote her movie.

"It's a secret, and I like to surprise people," she said. "I don't really

want to leave [the Philippines]. *Sobrang* in love *ako dito* (I'm so much in love with the country). But I also miss Korea so much."

If she had her way, she would marry a Korean, Sandara said. But she described Filipino males as friendlier.

"If I meet a Korean here, we don't really become friends," she said. "I don't know. I'd like to get married when I'm 23."

Five years from now, Sandara still sees herself as an actress. "I don't know if I'd be married by then," she said, but added that she certainly planned to stay in show biz "forever."

'Krung-Krung'

She said she planned on conquer-

SANDARA/ A2-6

Star Awards to be probed

By Marinel R. Cruz

OFFICERS of the Philippine Movie Press Club will form a committee to investigate the alleged vote-buying during the recent 21st Star Awards, according to Veronica Samio, head of the club's grievance committee.

"A deceitful act like this should not go unpunished," said Samio, who was president of the PMPC from 1991 to 1993. "It's not right to cheat. We will see to it that PMPC members involved in this will be expelled."

Post-show reports alleged that 13 PMPC members, all part of the 24-man voting committee, received money from ABS-CBN Star Magic PR head Rikka Dylim several days before the ceremony. This was to ensure that Piolo Pascual would be named Best Actor for "Milan," and the Best Actress award would go to Kris Aquino for "Feng Shui."

The accused members included writer Allan Diones, who admitted to receiving P5,000 from Dylim. Samio also identified former PMPC president Julie Bonifacio-Gaspar, incumbent vice president Jimi Escala and member Ador Saluta as among those involved.

Star Cinema, movie arm of ABS-CBN, produced both "Milan" and "Feng Shui."

But Vilma Santos ("Mano Po 3: My Love") took home the Best Actress trophy and Dennis Trillo ("Aishite Imasu 1941") was named Best Actor and Best New Movie Actor.

Confession

Samio said Diones confessed to the vote-buying on the day the committee members were to cast their votes. "The first reaction of our president (Joe Barrameda) was to strike Piolo's name from the list of nominees. But we dissuaded him because it would not be fair to Piolo, who actually did well in 'Milan,'" Samio told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday. "Piolo probably didn't even know what these people did for him."

According to Samio, writer-TV host Cristy Fermin was also seen reportedly handing out P3,000 to 12 PMPC members a few days before the PMPC was to announce the winners at the Cinema 5 of the Gateway Mall in Quezon City last March 12.

Fermin had been campaigning for Piolo and Kris—praising them in her columns in the tabloids Bandera, Pilipino Star Ngayon and Bulgar, and on her radio program on dzMM.

But Samio said only eight members actually voted for Piolo. "I know, because I've seen the summary of votes that the PMPC submitted to the show's producer, Airtime Marketing," she pointed out. "This means some of the members who accepted the bribe did not vote for Piolo."

PMPC chair Fernand de Guzman, Barrameda and two accountants signed the summary of votes handed to Airtime Marketing, said Samio.

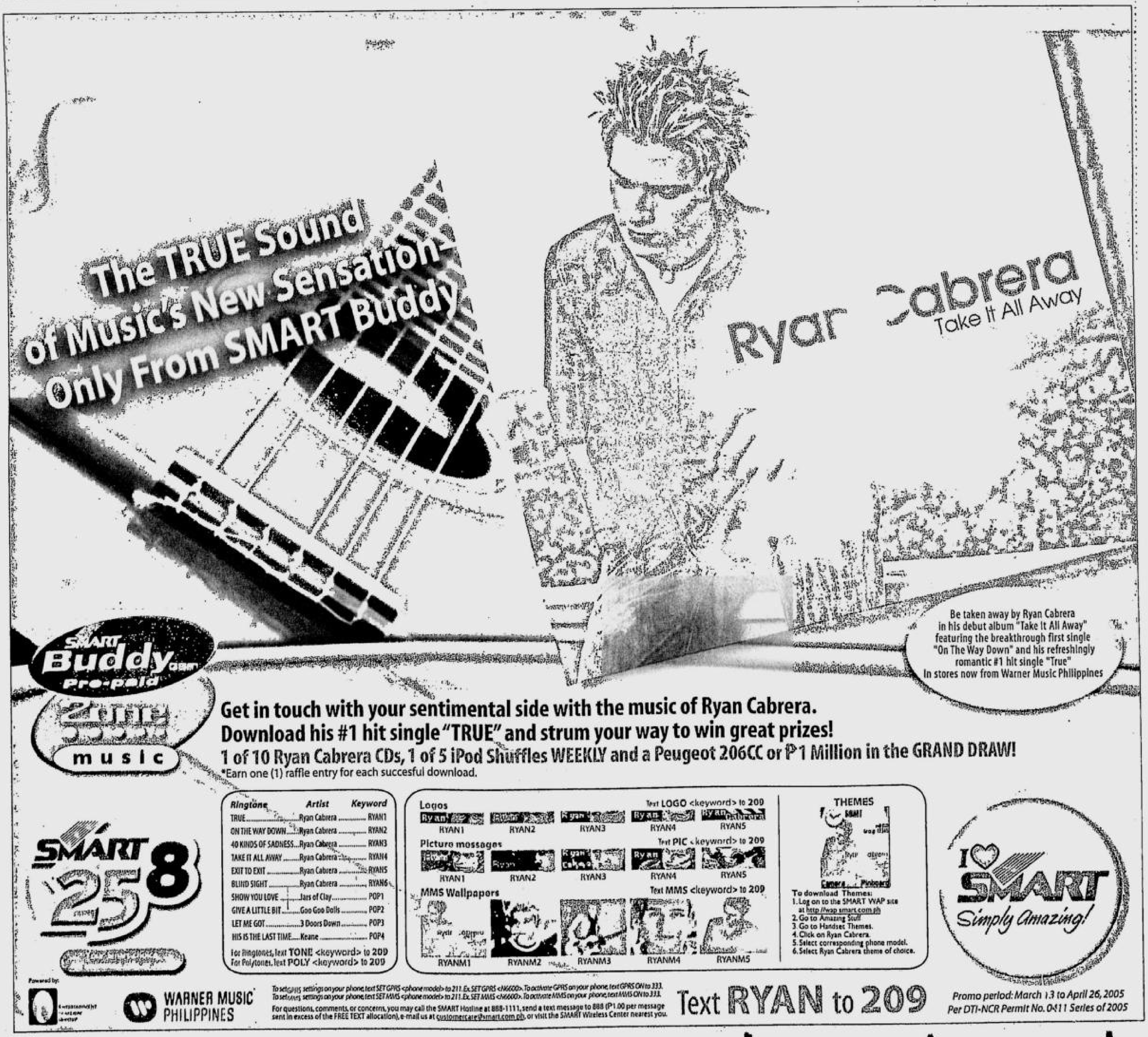
"You see, *walang dayaan sa* PMPC," she declared. "People tried to cheat but they did not succeed."

Asked for her reaction, Fermin said: "I do not wish to comment to anyone about the issue because what I think and feel about it are all written in my columns."

In her "Most Wanted" column in Bulgar last Friday, Fermin referred to the controversy as "*isang bangungot para sa ilan at masamang panaginip para sa iba, hindi naman lahat ng panaginip ay maganda* (a nightmare to some and a bad dream to others—not all dreams are good)."

ABS-CBN's Dylim also denied having anything to do with the alleged vote-buying. In a statement

STAR/ A2-2



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BLIND SIGHT	Ryan Cabrera	RYAN6
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Simple Plan vows to rock Manila fans

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit

(Exclusive interview with guitarist Jeff Stinco)

CANADIAN punk-pop band Simple Plan has been known for mainstream radio hits such as "Perfect" and "Addicted," songs that have been attracting many young listeners from different countries to their ever-growing fan base. The band recently performed at the MTV Asia Aid tsunami relief show in Bangkok, and they'll be back in the region at the end of the month for a concert in Manila. On behalf of the band, guitarist Jeff Stinco granted INQUIRER a brief telephone interview, arranged by Warner Music Philippines.

SHOW TIME

Now composed of vocalist Pierre Bouvier, bassist David Desrosiers, drummer Chuck Comeau, and guitarists Sebastien Lefebvre and Stinco, the band had a prior incarnation as the successful punk group Reset. Several years and some roster changes later, the old high school buddies morphed into Simple Plan, and recorded "No Pads, No Helmets, Just Balls," which was commercially well-received. This debut album was followed by "Still Not Getting Any," which was released a few months back.

Stinco said there were many changes in their lives that the band had yet to get accustomed to, but were thankful for. For instance, he said, "It's crazy having fans waiting for us at airports. But we haven't changed as people. We're very close friends and that's just what unites us. The travel intensified; there's a lot of touring. [And] we can pay our bills now."

He added that the band's maturity had been reflected on the new album. "I think we're so much closer, getting on the road daily together. The record is more diverse and more mature; you get everything in between."

No, the musical experimentation wasn't alienating fans of their accessible, current-day punk sound, Stinco noted. "The response is great, overwhelming. The people who've heard it, they like it. The fans are just keeping up with us, and it keeps us grounded."

On songwriting collaborations and live performances, the guitarist explained that Simple Plan's hardworking team players had meshed well from the very start, though their collective inspirations are diverse. "Early on," Stinco said, "we had a lot of influences from Californian bands— Green Day, Blink 182, and a few others. We mixed it up with older influences like the Beatles, Beach Boys and Elvis Costello. Later these included U2, No Doubt . . . we stay relevant."

Their songs have appealed to young listeners worldwide because of their universal themes, like insecurities and heartbreaks. "I dunno that there's a formula or trick for it,'" said Stinco. "It's [just] being honest. Fans respond to the truth."

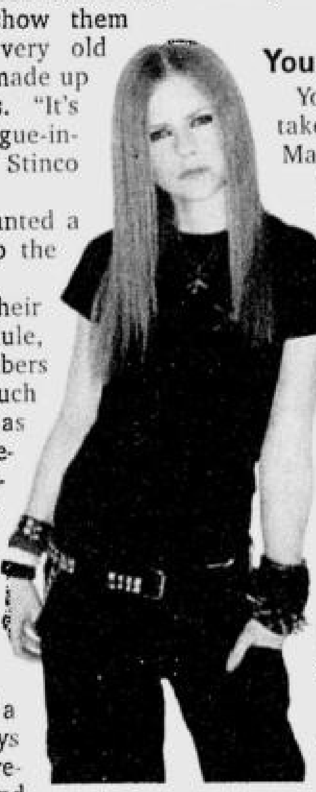
Fans respond to them having fun off the stage as well. Their new album sleeve and bonus VCD show them looking like very old men, heavily made up in prosthetics. "It's kinda a tongue-in-cheek thing," Stinco pointed out.

"We just wanted a 'fun' aspect to the whole thing."

Because of their hectic schedule, the band members try to get as much precious R&R as possible between performances. "We don't have a lot of down time," said Stinco. "There's Christmas time; we had a couple of days off. We just relaxed and chilled with families and friends. There are a lot of countries we want to tour in . . . we're gonna be everywhere, meeting fans."

On March 31, they will be at the Bonifacio Global City Open Field with fellow Canadian chart-topper Avril Lavigne. "We've known Avril a long time. She's a great performer and she allows us to go places we've never been to as musicians," Stinco said. "We're gonna rock up the crowd!"

SIMPLE Plan


AVRIL Lavigne

Comedy show

Bernie Uy dishes out the laughs at Merk's Bar Bistro on Monday and again on March 28.

Also on Monday, Primeline's new talents, Jeli Mateo and Rizza Navales, perform at Bagaberde with Jerome and Lei.

'Martir sa Golgota'

Tanghalang Sta. Ana stages "Martir sa Golgota," at Plaza Moraga, Tondo, tomorrow, Pagsanjan Town Plaza on March 22, Plaza Hugo, Sta. Ana, on March 23, San Juan Plaza on March 24 and Glorietta Activity Center on March 26. The play stars Alma Concepcion, Ivy Violan, Ricky Davao, Yul Servo and newscaster Candace Giron. For inquiries, call 7210801.

Young band @ The Tavern

Young band M.Y.M.P. will take over the Tavern stage on March 22 and 29.

On Tuesday, Livewire Band performs at Suburbia in Malate. Catch Men In Gold at Funn Side.

Ladine at Century

Ladine Roxas performs with guitarist Jerome and percussionist Lei at the Century Park Hotel on March 30.

Also on March 30 at Merk's, Richard Merk goes on stage with Eddie Katindig and Sandra Lim. Moonstrucks play at Funn Side.

Cash and Cardinals

Johnny Cash and The Jukebox Cardinals at Funn Side on March 31.

Gary V with Roxie

Catch Gary V and Roxie Barcelo in the 2nd leg of the "Gary V Hits . . . Philippine Tour" on April 1 at the Leyte National High School in Tacloban City and on April 9 at the Pana-ad Park & Sports Complex in Bacolod City.

Rachelle's first anniversary

Rachelle Ann Go will be doing mall tour shows at the Robinsons Angeles (April 2), Robinsons Cainta (April 3). Robinsons Dasmariñas (April 10). Robinsons Pioneer (April 17) and Robinsons Metro East (April 24). She is also set to mark her first anniversary with a concert at the Aliw Theater on April 29, with Mark Bautista, Christian Bautista, Jay-R and Ogie Alcasid as her special guests.

First timers on Arkdia

On April 2, Divo Bayer will perform at Arkdia for the first time with 2004 ABS-CBN Star in a Million grand champion Frenchie Dy. Arkdia is located at Remedios St., Malate, Manila, or call 4009776.

An evening with Kuh

Pop diva Kuh Ledesma resurrects some of the best-loved pop and folk classics of the 1970s and '80s with Jimmy Bondoc and Noel Cabangon. The show, "Masters Unplugged Sing Stevie Wonder, James Taylor and More," is part of Kuh's year-long series to celebrate her 25 years in the business. For inquiries, please call 7210635 or 721-6726.

Star Awards...

From page A2-1

sent to INQUIRER Entertainment Wednesday, Dylim said: "The network accepts the fact that another actor won the Best Actor award. We never question or protest the decision of the club."

In another statement, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation said it was "saddened" by the alleged "vote-buying scam" and announced that it "has not tolerated and will not tolerate such practice."

The statement added: "The network has always espoused the principles of professionalism and integrity, and this extends to playing fair in any industry-related activity, including the PMPC's Star Awards. "It is unfortunate that such allegations routinely surfaces after every awards ceremony regardless of parties, to the detriment of the industry."

PMPC officials and some members met last Thursday to discuss the controversy, said Samio. "It was during the meeting that we decided to expel members who would be proven guilty of accepting bribes," added the former PMPC president. "How can the PMPC cleanse itself if it does not get rid of these people?"

Incumbent president Barrameda said the PMPC "stands by the veracity of all of its winners" and "finds no errors in its tabulation."

(e-mail the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph)

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3 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
4 HOSTAGE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4230
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 HOSTAGE
3 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
5 RENOVATION

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 BUNNY GUARD
2 BUKID AY BASA
3 HOSTAGE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA
5 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
6 ROBOTS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (DDS) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
2 (SDDS) HITCH
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 GOLD (DTS) CONSTANTINE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) HOSTAGE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MILLION DOLLAR BABY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) ROBOTS
8 BAHAY NI LOLA
9 CURSE
10 FINAL CUT

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MILLION DOLLAR BABY
LEMONY SNICKET'S
BAHAY NI LOLA 2
CONSTANTINE
ROBOTS
CURSED
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
2 HOSTAGE
3 ROBOTS
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 BUKO PANDAN
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
4

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BAHAY NI LOLA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 (DTS EX) ROBOTS
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 WEREWOLF
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
4 (DTS) ROBOTS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 INFECTION
2 LEMONY SNICKETS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) HITCH
2 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
3 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
4 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FINAL CUT
2 (DTS) BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY) ROBOTS
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 (DOLBY) FINAL CUT
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 INFECTION
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY) MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) CHAIN OF COMMAND
2 WALANG MALISYA
3 KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS) ROBOTS
4 BUKID AY BASA
5 FINAL CUT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 INFECTION
3 (DTS) BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 (DOLBY) THE AVIATOR

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 HITCH
2 LEMONY SNICKETS
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 FINAL CUT

Berma Cinema
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2 SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD

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MILLION DOLLAR BABY 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
BAHAY NI LOLA 2 1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CONSTANTINE 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50
ROBOTS 1:10 / 3:10 / 5:10 / 7:10 / 9:10
CURSED 12:35 / 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15
Sneak Prev.- THE PACIFIER on March 21, 22 & 23, 2005
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ BAHAY NI LOLA 2 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❷ HOSTAGE 12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
❸ ROBOTS 12:10 / 2:10 / 4:10 / 6:10 / 8:10
❹ BIRHEN NG MANAOAG 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20
❺ SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD 11:20 / 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM SHOWS
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RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE! April 16, Saturday, 8pm
MARTIN NIEVERA & PATTI AUSTIN IN CONCERT April 22, Friday, 8pm
JA RULE LIVE IN MANILA April 23, Saturday, 8pm
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Love in full bloom

By Larry Leviste
Contributor

JENNYLYN Mercado and Mark Herras have let their love begin. Having been constantly with each other after winning GMA Channel 7's "Starstruck Ultimate Survivors" last year, Jenn and Mark's on and off screen romance is now in full bloom.

Playing second lead couple to Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin in last month's hit movie, "Let the Love Begin," Jenn and Mark are now shooting "Say That You Love Me" for GMA Films, directed by Mac Alejandre. This will be their launching movie as solo love team.

This couldn't have come at a better time. Jenn and Mark were given the title "Most Popular Love Team" by Yes Magazine, as judged by five million text votes last December. In their new movie, Jenn plays an old-maid type who loves to shop at thrift stores. Mark plays a hip hop city boy.

Last week on a TV show biz talk show, Jenn and Mark were given a truth test about their relationship. They came up with identical answers to questions like, who starts the day by saying "I love you," and who first says "Sorry" first after a misunderstanding. The answer to both questions: Mark. Of the two, Mark is really the more affectionate one; Jenn is more patient and more mature.

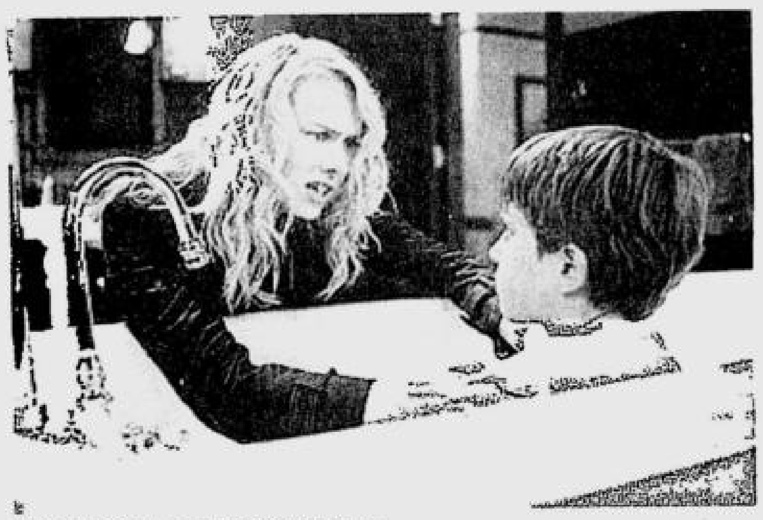
She told INQUIRER Entertainment: "Last year I was the first one to be named in "Starstruck's" Final Four. I fought hard and did well after I was named No. 14 in the third elimination round. I got scared and decided I wanted to win. It was a sweet victory."

Her role in "Let the Love Begin" was a tomboy who transforms into a very feminine young woman. "It was easy," she said, "because that's how I was in real life." But she admitted that she found movie work much harder than television.

A little known fact is that Jennylyn is like a child at home. Her mother, Lydia, said Jenn enjoyed being doted on. "Her favorite dish is *pata tim*, and she loves peach mango pie," Lydia said. She studied at the Agustinian Abbey in Quezon City, and currently endorses Unisilver, Bambini, Head and Shoulders, BCNY and Converse.

GMA Records recently released her CD, a collection that includes two duets with Janno Gibbs—"If I'm Not In Love" and " Sapat Na Ang Minsan." She is shooting a *fantaserye* for GMA where she plays a fairy.

TEXT, STYLE AND DIRECTION: LARRY LEVISTE
PHOTOS: ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
HAIR AND MAKEUP: DIERIE ORTIZ
FASHION: RUEL S. RIVERA
AND CECILIO BERMUTEN



NAOMI Watts and David Dorfman

Samara is back

NEW YORK—"The Ring Two" has a B-movie premise with grade-A production values, making it tenser, moodier, scarier, and all-around better than you'd expect from a sequel—especially the sequel to a horror movie, one that didn't exactly get universally ringing endorsements the first time around (especially not from this typist).

Yes, the original "Ring" from 2002 made a lot of money—$129 million, to be exact. By now, haven't you learned that big box office isn't necessarily an indicator of quality?

But "Ringu," the Japanese movie that was the basis for "The Ring," was onto something. It's the highest-grossing film in Japan's history and it launched an entirely new horror genre.

Hideo Nakata, the director of "Ringu," makes his American film debut here. And that makes a huge difference. He seems completely comfortable letting the pacing play out slowly and steadily, and not so interested in gimmicks or quick, cheap scares—though there are a couple that will make you jump out of your seat.

Returning characters

Oh, it's still based on a totally ridiculous idea, this nonsense about a little girl who's been dumped down a well but still manages to communicate through supernatural video production. It did then and does still beg the question: If she can manipulate technology in such a sophisticated fashion, why can't she get herself out of there?

Anyway, the spooky little girl Samara is back, and so is Naomi Watts' character, reporter Rachel Keller, as the target of her terror. Having survived the first film's deadly videotape attack six months earlier, Keller has moved from Seattle to a small town in Oregon to start over.

David Dorfman, who's also back from the original as Rachel's young son, Aidan, has now graduated from the Haley Joel Osment School of Kid Movie Creepiness and is working on his master's degree.

He becomes the human vessel through which Samara manifests herself, which includes a visually stunning scene in which bathtub water flies upward from his body and hovers like an upside-down pool on the bathroom ceiling.

Others who have the misfortune of coming into contact with her are rendered fatally paralyzed mid-scream, like figures in an Edvard Munch painting. (Six-time Oscar winner Rick Baker, whose film include "An American Werewolf in London" and "Men in Black," did the special-effects makeup.)

Clunky scares

An even more special effect is far simpler. Not to give it away, but it's a cameo that will bring "Carrie" to mind, and make you wish it lasted longer.

Watts is solid here as she is in everything—believably frightened and protective, with grace under pressure and a natural ability to connect with the audience.

But she and Dorfman and the aforementioned mystery performer are all bogged down by the contrived, often clunky scares of returning writer Ehren Kruger's script.

The movie is more effective when it's about a mother and her child and the intangible spiritual phenomena plaguing them. When it becomes too literal toward the end, focusing on the evil that sprouts from their television set, it confirms that you really can go to the well one too many times. *AP*

(Released in the Philippines as "Samara," the fright flick opens in metro theaters on March 26.)

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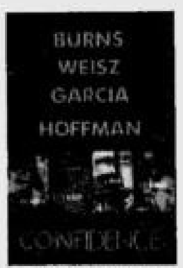

CONFIDENCE
MTRCB Rating: PG 13

ICE AGE
ROBOTS

ROBOTS
MTRCB Rating: GP

SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

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8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END
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11:50 FS / 12:20 MF / 2:25 / 4:30 / 6:35
8:40 / 10:15 LFS / 10:45 LMF / 12:20 END

☎ 633-8978

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little BLACK BOOK
12:05 FS / 12:35 MF / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20
9:05 LFS / 9:40 LMF / 12:25 END

☎ 633-1901

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PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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3 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 GOSPEL OF JOHN
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
9 HOSTAGE
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city fairview

1 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
2 CONSTANTINE
3 CURSED
4 HOSTAGE
5 GOSPEL OF JOHN
6 BAHAY NI LOLA
7 SON OF THE MASK
8 ROBOTS
9 SANTA SANTITA
10 FINAL CUT
11 HITCH
12 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

sm city north edsa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
5 CURSED
6 HOSTAGE
7 ROBOTS
8 CONFIDENCE

sm city manila

1 CONSTANTINE
2 HOSTAGE
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
4 ROBOTS
5 HITCH
6 CONFIDENCE
7 SANTA SANTITA
8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
9 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
10 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
11 CURSED
12 GOSPEL OF JOHN

sm city sta. mesa

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 HOSTAGE
6 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD
7 ROBOTS
8 HITCH
9 GOSPEL OF JOHN
10 CURSED

sm city southmall

1 GOSPEL OF JOHN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 HITCH
6 CURSED
7 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
8 ROBOTS
9 HOSTAGE
10 SHAOLIN v.s EVIL DEAD

sm city bicutan

1 HOSTAGE
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 ROBOTS
4 CURSED

sm cinema tutuban

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 CURSED

LUZON

sm city pampanga

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

sm city baguio

1 CONSTANTINE
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN
3 RACING STRIPES
4 HITCH

sm city batangas

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 CONSTANTINE
3 HITCH
4 MAD HOUSE

sm city dasmariñas

1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 CURSED
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST

sm city bacoor

1 CONSTANTINE
2 CURSED
3 ROBOTS
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 HOSTAGE
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 THE FINAL CUT
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN

sm city marilao

1 CONSTANTINE
2 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 SON OF THE MASK

sm city lucena

1 SON OF THE MASK
2 BAHAY NI LOLA
3 INFECTION
4 CONSTANTINE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu

1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

sm city iloilo

1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
5 THE AVIATOR
6 ROBOTS
7 RESERVED
8 GOSPEL OF JOHN

sm city davao

1 ROBOTS
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 HITCH

sm city cagayan de oro

1 THE AVIATOR
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
3 INFECTION
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

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		Cinema	Movie
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1	HITCH
		2	SPANGLISH
		THX	HOSTAGE 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8.05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	CONFIDENCE
		5	ROBOTS/ THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
		6	ROBOTS
		7	CURSED
G1	GLORIETTA 1	1	ROBOTS
		2	HOSTAGE
		3	SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
		4	BAHAY NI LOLA 2
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX 1	ROBOTS
		2	HOSTAGE
		3	HITCH
		4	THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
		5	MILLION DOLLAR BABY
ACC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1	HITCH
		2	ROBOTS
		3	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
		4	HOSTAGE
		5	
GB1	GRENBELT 1	1	SPANGLISH 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:40
		2	ROBOTS 12:10, 2:15, 4.20, 6:25, 8:30
GB3	GRENBELT 1	THX 1	SPANGLISH 1 00, 3 35, 6 10, 8 45, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS
		THX 2	ROBOTS 12:30, 2 30, 4 30, 6 30,8 30, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		3	CONFIDENCE 1:05, 3.10, 5.15, 7 20,9 25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		4	HITCH 1:30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
		5	ROBOTS 1:10, 3 10, 5 10, 7 10, 9 10, 11 10 GUARANTEED SEATS

From The Creators Of ICE AGE
ROBOTS

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MTRCB Rating: General Audiences

20th Century Fox

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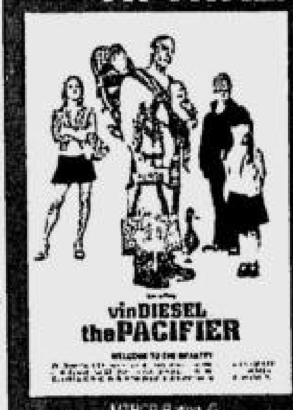

MTRCB Rating G
MARCH 21, 22 & 23

Sandra Bullock
miss Congeniality 2
Armed and Fabulous

MTRCB Rating PG 13
MARCH 22 & 23

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④ Bahay ni Lola 2

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⑥ Hostage
⑦ Robots

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Getting 'Hitch'-ed

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WILL Smith is already a bankable action-adventure star, but his foray into romantic-comedy turf with "Hitch" has made him more popular than ever. In fact, some Hollywood insiders believe that, with his new film's success, Smith has served notice that he is the next big star on the movie world's horizon.

In "Hitch," Smith plays a date doctor who teaches men how to win the love of the women of their dreams—by playing the courtship game as *women* want it played. Hitch's ploys are impressively effective because he forces his clients to think like women.

Hitch's most successful client is an accountant named Albert, who is smitten with a glamorous celebrity, Allegra Cole. They are as different as heaven and limbo, so how in the world can Albert warm Allegra's jet-setting heart?

Albert's date doctor "rehearses" him well for the ultimate romantic challenge by building up his few good points and concealing his many negative traits. Hitch is so good at what he does, and Albert is such a determined pupil, that they achieve the "impossible": Allegra falls for the heretofore bland and meek Albert!

Trouble is, a gossip columnist and man-hater, Sara (**Eva Mendes**) is out to expose Albert and his date doctor, and their joint romantic machinations. And, even more "unfortunately," Hitch falls in love with her.

Naturally, when her exposé is in turn exposed, love flies out of the window, and is replaced by vindictiveness. Eventually, of course, the parties involved work out their differences and misimpressions, and love conquers even the man-hater and the cool date doctor.

The film is a comic and romantic romp, but it also scores with its depiction of love in today's world.

The man-hating gossip columnist learns that her defensive armor constricts the very heart she wants to protect, while the date doctor who teaches his grateful clients the rules for romantic conquest finally realizes that, where genuine love is concerned, there are no rules!

He also learns that cool characters like him often lie alone in a cold bed, so he has to feel passionately about the woman he loves, and even fight for her.

All these lessons aren't lost on viewers, who also appreciate the fact that the movie doesn't forget that it should entertain them all the way.

There are some awkward and facile plot developments, but the production's overall breezy tone sustains it as a crowd-pleaser.

Smith's cool but also occasionally vulnerable performance paces the rest of the cast, *but* he's sometimes in danger of being upstaged by **Kevin James'** prodigiously funny portrayal of Albert.

The production's female stars, Eva Mendes and **Amber Valleta** as Allegra Cole, do their vivid best to keep up, but Smith and James score the most telling comic points.

'Lyndal's Lifeline'

ANIMAL Planet's "animal advocacy" show, "Lyndal's Lifeline," focuses on bears in its March 20 episode at 8 p.m. Host **Lyndal Davies** visits the Wildlife Friends of Thailand Rescue Center, where bears rescued from dismal conditions of confinement are given a new lease on life. The episode also looks into measures being taken to stop the illegal trade in animals.

At Casa San Miguel

THE CENTER for the Arts in San Antonio opens the 12th season of the Pundaquit Festival on March 20 with a performance of the Loboc Children's Choir and the Pundaquit Virtuosi.

The child prodigies will perform Barber's Adagio for Strings, Presto from Beethoven's String Quartet, Ernest Bloch's Concerto Grosso, Sa Kabukiran, Ilokano Medley, Visayan Medley and Meditation from Thais. **Coke Bolipata** will also perform violin pieces.

'Past Forward'

RETROSPECT'S new album, "Past Forward," has 12 revival tracks of '70s hits. The carrier single is "Shake Your Booty," originally sung by KC & The Sunshine Band. The single has rap verses written and performed by **KC Montero**.

'Fly and Feast' contest

MALAYSIA Airlines and Discovery Travel & Living have launched the "Fly and Feast" contest, ongoing until April 24. The lucky winner and partner will be flown to his choice of London, New York or Sydney, where they will dine at Fifteen, Les Halles or Billy Kwong, respectively.

Consumers can enter the contest by logging on to the *www.travelandliving.com* website. The contest promotes Malaysia Airlines' "new experience" campaign, which includes the latest technology, futuristic style, innovative design in cabin comfort, and innovative services.

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11:50,2:00,4:20,6:40,9:00

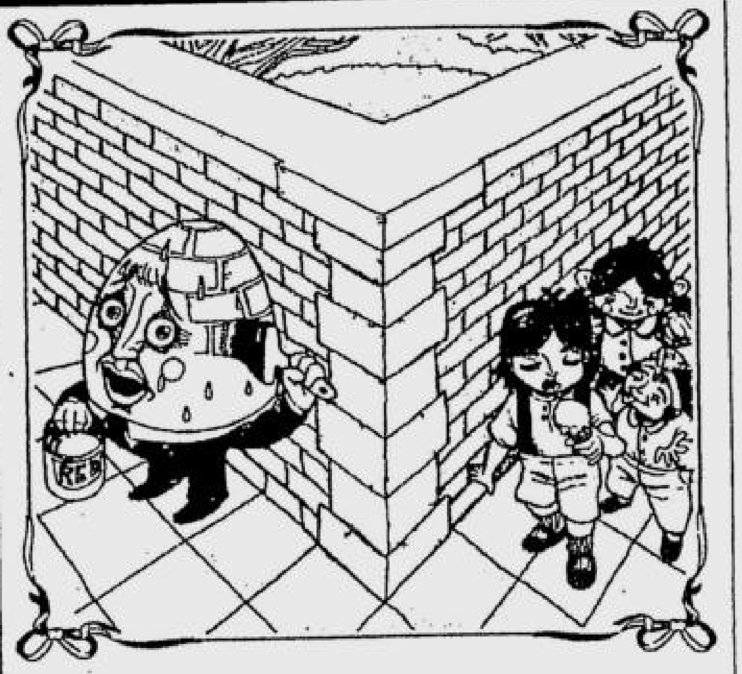
HITCH PG13
12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:20

ROBOTS GP
1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00

HOSTAGE R13
12:15,2:45:5:15,7:45,10:15

MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13
1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00

ROBOTS GP
12:00,2:00,4:00,
6:00,8:00,10:00



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PG-13

2 ROBOTS
10:50, 1:20, 3:50
6:20, 8:50
GP

3 ROBOTS
12:50, 2:50, 5:50
8:20, 10:50
PG-13

4 HOSTAGE
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8:30, 11:05
PG-13

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ROBOTS
10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
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MTRCB: R-13
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 LMF

3 HOSTAGE
MTRCB: R-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

4 HITCH
MTRCB : PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 LMF

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1 HITCH • THX
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 ROBOTS
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
3 CONFIDENCE
10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:40 10:00
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
6 HOSTAGE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 CURSED
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
9 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
11:00 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:00
10 CONSTANTINE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 ROBOTS 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
11:10 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:40
3 HOSTAGE
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 CURSED
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
5 CONFIDENCE
10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 HITCH
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:40 9:00
2 CONSTANTINE
11:30 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00
3 CURSED
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10
4 HITCH
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00
5 ROBOTS
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6 HOSTAGE
11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
7 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
10:25 12:50 3:15 5:40 8:05 10:30
8 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31
1 ROBOTS
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
2 HOSTAGE
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
4 CURSED
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
6 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
7 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30
8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 ROBOTS
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 HOSTAGE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
2 PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 BUNSHINSABA

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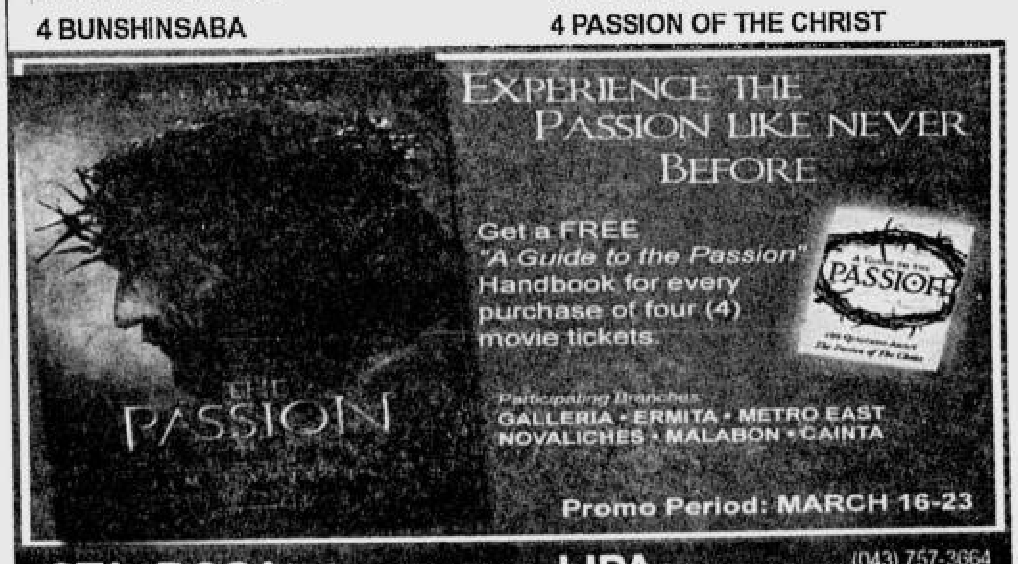
1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 PASSION OF THE CHRIST



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Sandara headed for home

From page A2-1

ing the Korean and Japanese movie markets. "I will always be a star because I'm 'Krung-Krung,'" she joked.

A street colloquialism for airhead, Krung-Krung was a nickname that Sandara has responded to since it was given to her during her stint as finalist in "Star Circle Quest" two years ago.

"I don't mind anymore that Krung-Krung [has negative connotations]," she said. "I still carry that name."

She even wears the name like a badge of honor, especially after it was shortened to Krungy by people like Hero Angeles.

"I'm already used to criticism," she said. "But I want to prove that I deserve this [popularity]."

Director Joey Reyes, creator of teen movie idols, tried to explain Sandara's phenomenal success in local show biz.

Just lucky

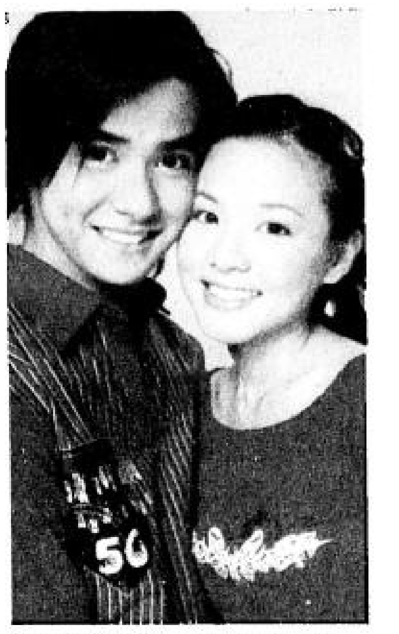
"I wish I had an equation for it," Reyes said. "Maybe, it's the fact that she's Korean, and her life has not been scrutinized the way other young actors, who have yet to make a movie, are sold [to the public] on the basis of their life. Maybe, it's also because of the popularity of Chinovelas and Korenovelas here. She is a prototype of Chinese stars like Barby Shui, and she doesn't look like anybody on the scene."

Sandara herself said, "I think I'm just lucky."

Reyes also went beyond Sandara's Krung-Krung image: "For one, she's intelligent. There may be communication barriers, but mainly, she understands. She's sensitive, and she delivers. So far, she hasn't disappointed with the level of expectation I have of her. That level is what the role demands, like falling into a ditch. And since I wrote [the movie's screenplay], I already had a benchmark for the role, the kind of acting that she can deliver."

There is also the universal appeal of the dumb broad—think Marilyn Monroe, or Reese Witherspoon—that Sandara appears to be playing to the hilt.

Acting dumb is "also an advantage for her because people apparently see her as vulnerable," Reyes agreed.



SANDARA with Hero Angeles

Ninety percent

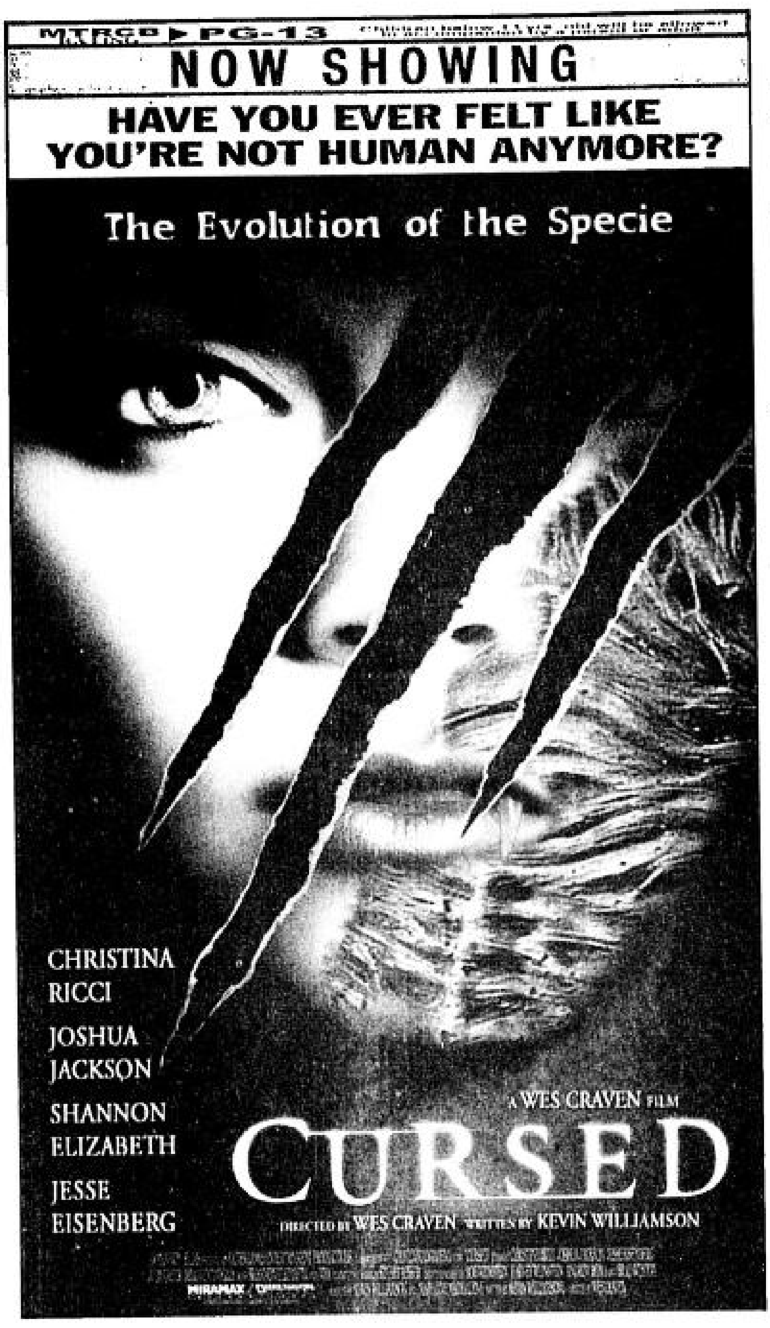
Sandara insisted that she had understood all the questions asked of her during Thursday's press con. "I understand about 90 percent [of the time]," she said.

Reyes said he hoped Sandara was not just a novelty. "It all depends on what she plans to do and how her career path is designed. This girl has a double platinum album. It just proves a point—that people would buy anything for her. Look, among all the SCQ [talents], she has the most number of endorsements… a ballpen, Cannon, even a sanitary napkin."

Sandara admitted that she did not find much use for the astringent she was endorsing, but only because "I don't really take care of my skin."

The frenzy surrounding Sandara would eclipse the movie's story—about a Korean exchange student (Sandara) in Manila falling in love with the Philippines and with a local boy (Hero), who's studying to be a nurse so he could work abroad. While still basically a love story, Reyes' script attempts to probe, through the eyes of a Korean girl, the current Pinoy obsession of obtaining qualifications as caregivers for other countries.

"You can say something deep while still talking about love," Reyes insisted. "Love can only occur around people and circumstances."



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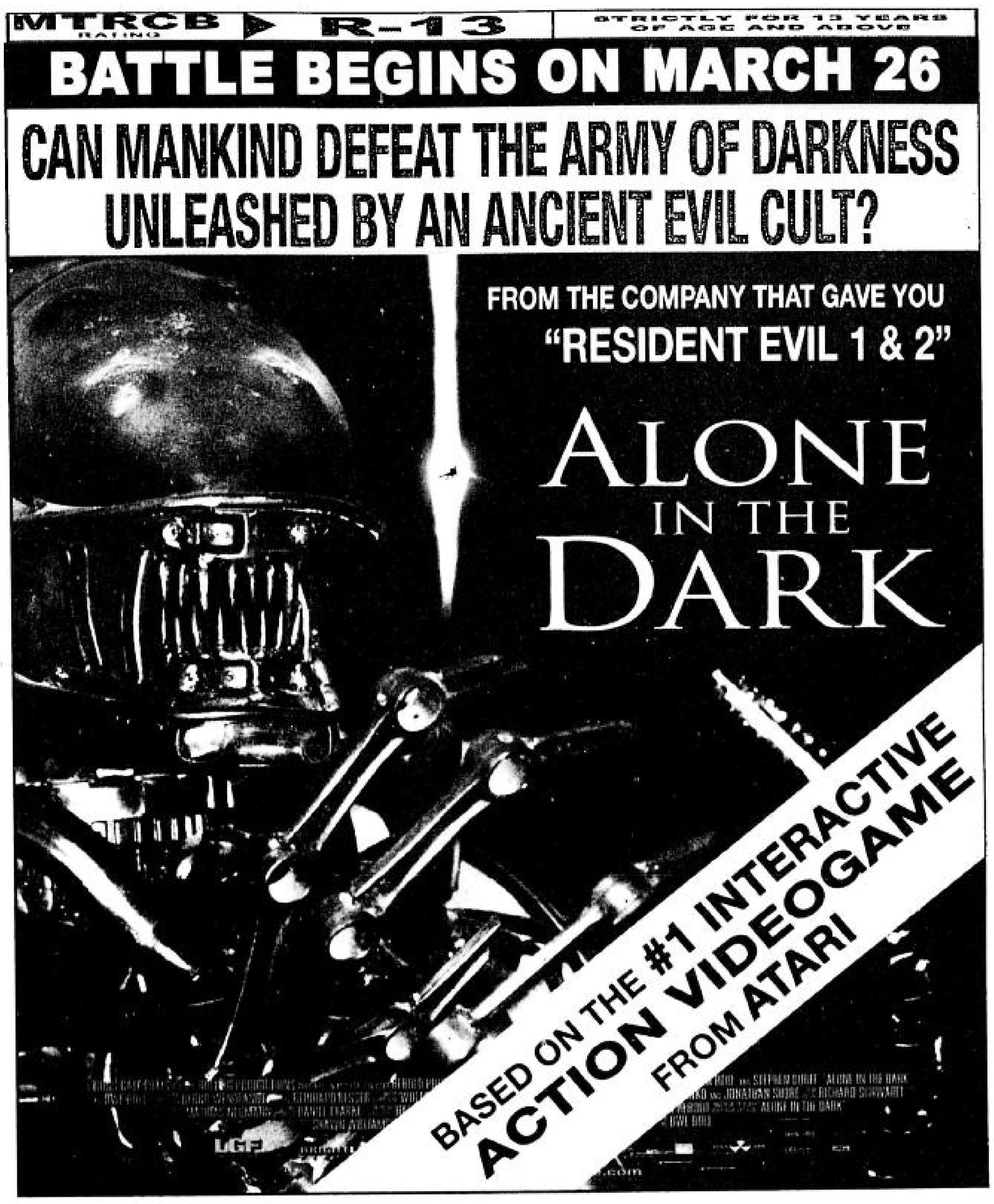

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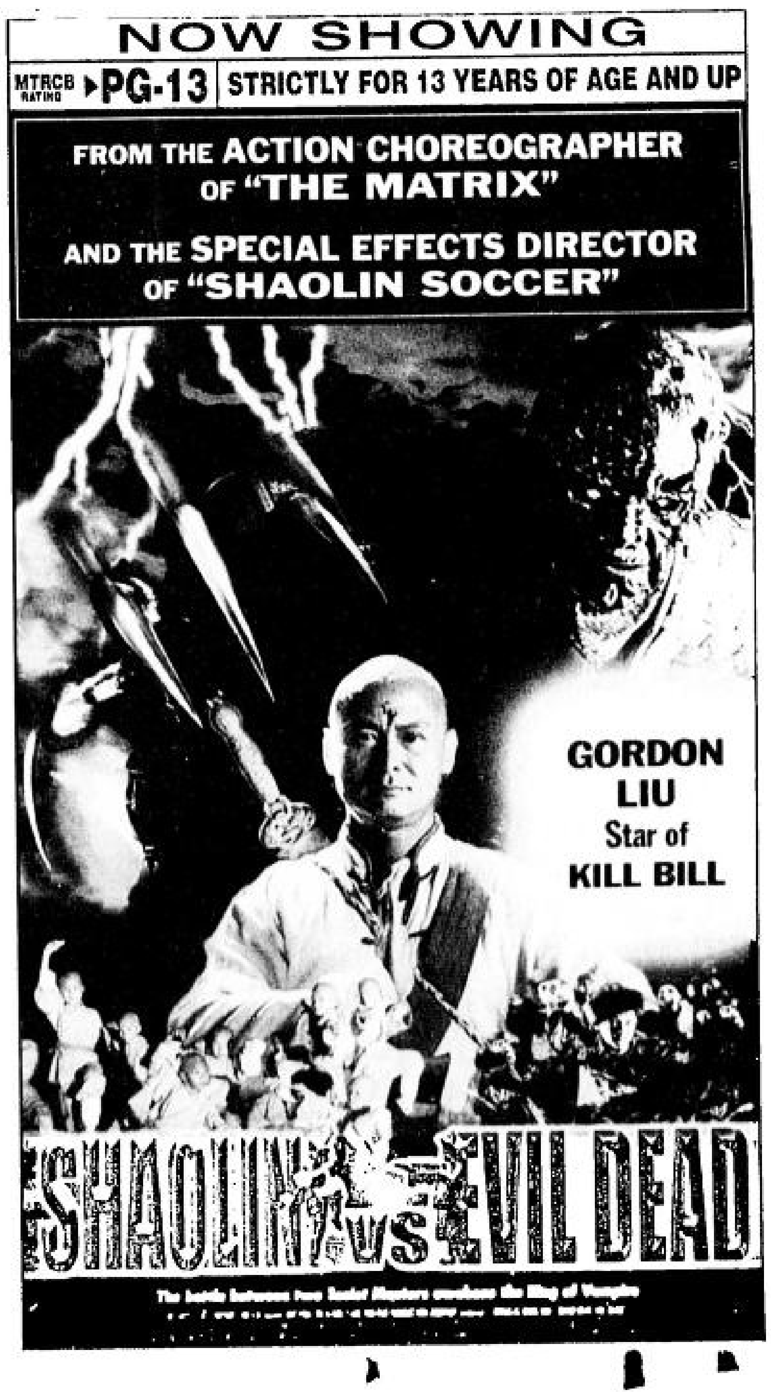

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GORDON LIU
Star of
KILL BILL
SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD

Probe Team revisits Quezon after the storm

FOUR months after three storms ravaged the countryside, ABC-5's "The Probe Team" returns to Quezon province for its March 22 episode.

On Dec. 9, 2004, 10 days after typhoon Winnie wrought havoc on Quezon, Barangay Tignoan in Real was the epicenter of an unfolding drama. Four survivors were plucked from the wreckage of the collapsed Repador Building.

Probe Team reporter Eliza Zamora now talks to one of the four, the boy John John, who talks about his harrowing experience. Zamora also interviews Elena, who almost lost her mind after the storm wiped out her entire family. And for the first time, Zamora meets the rescue miners and Philipine Army troops responsible for uncovering the dead buried under the Repador ruins.

Play therapy

Cheche Lazaro travels to Barangay Minahan Sur in General Nakar, where a group of children are gathered at the Southern Tagalog Kanlungan Development Center—to play. The play therapy, conducted by the center, allows the kids to process the trauma of losing family members due to the disaster.

In the special documentary, two new Probe Team members—Chay Hofileña and Zak Yuson—are introduced. Hofileña is the head of Ateneo's graduate program for Journalism. Yuson is the creator of the multi-awarded children's show "5 and Up."

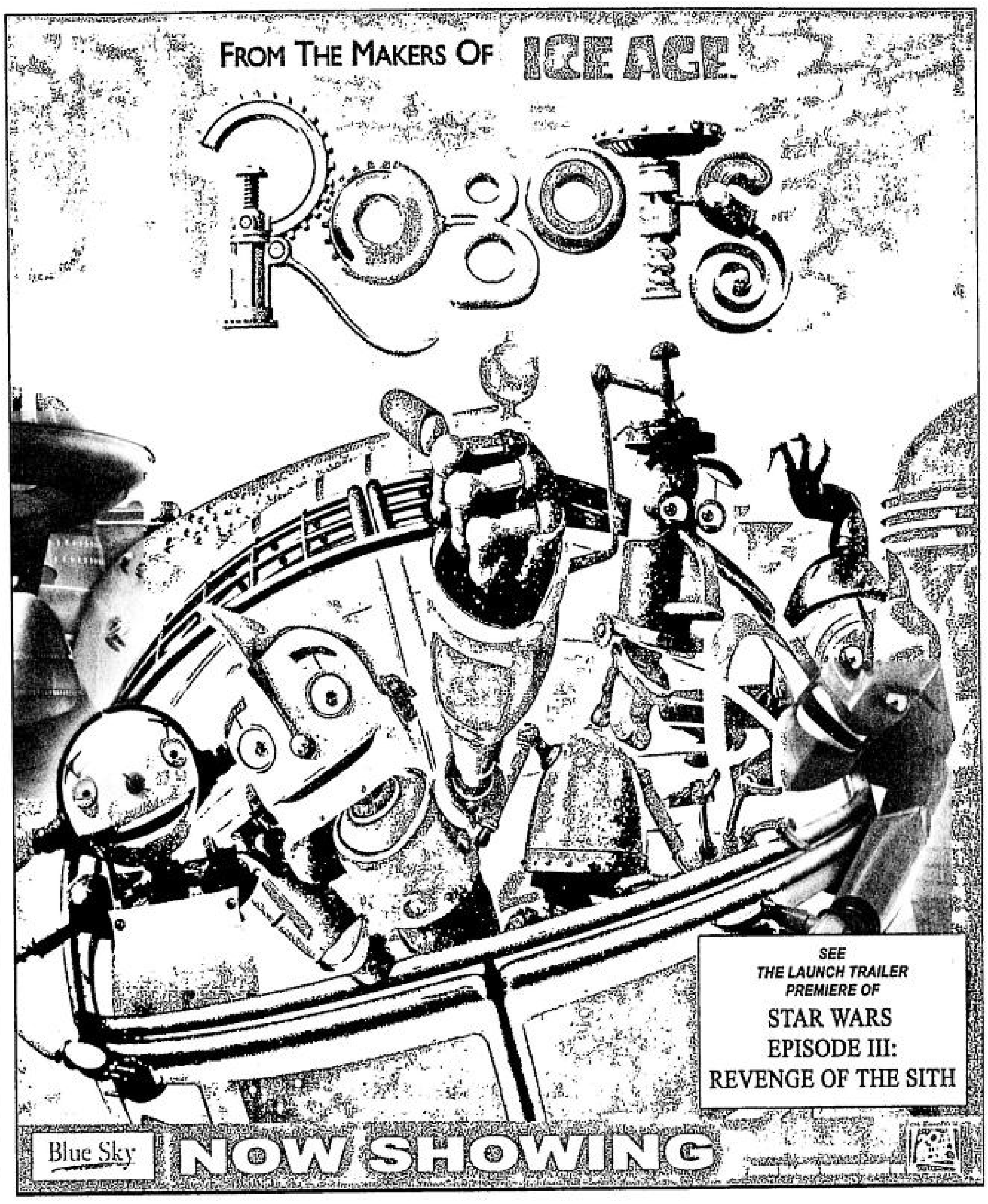
Hofileña reports on the situation of school children in Real, and Yuson tackles the issue of rehabilitation.

The very moving presentation airs on Tuesday, 10 p.m.

CHAY Hofileña (above) and Zak Yuson

ELIZA Zamora with John John, one of the survivors from the collapsed Repador Building.

US RELEASE
"Santa Santita," sporting its international title, "Magdalena," opened in theaters in New York, Honolulu and San Diego, California on March 11 as a Lenten offering. The Unitel movie, starring Angelica Panganiban (above) in the title role, is produced by Tony Gloria and directed by Laurice Guillen. It opens in Toronto, Canada, on March 25. The movie is being shown with English subtitles. In Manila, "Santa Santita" was reissued early this week.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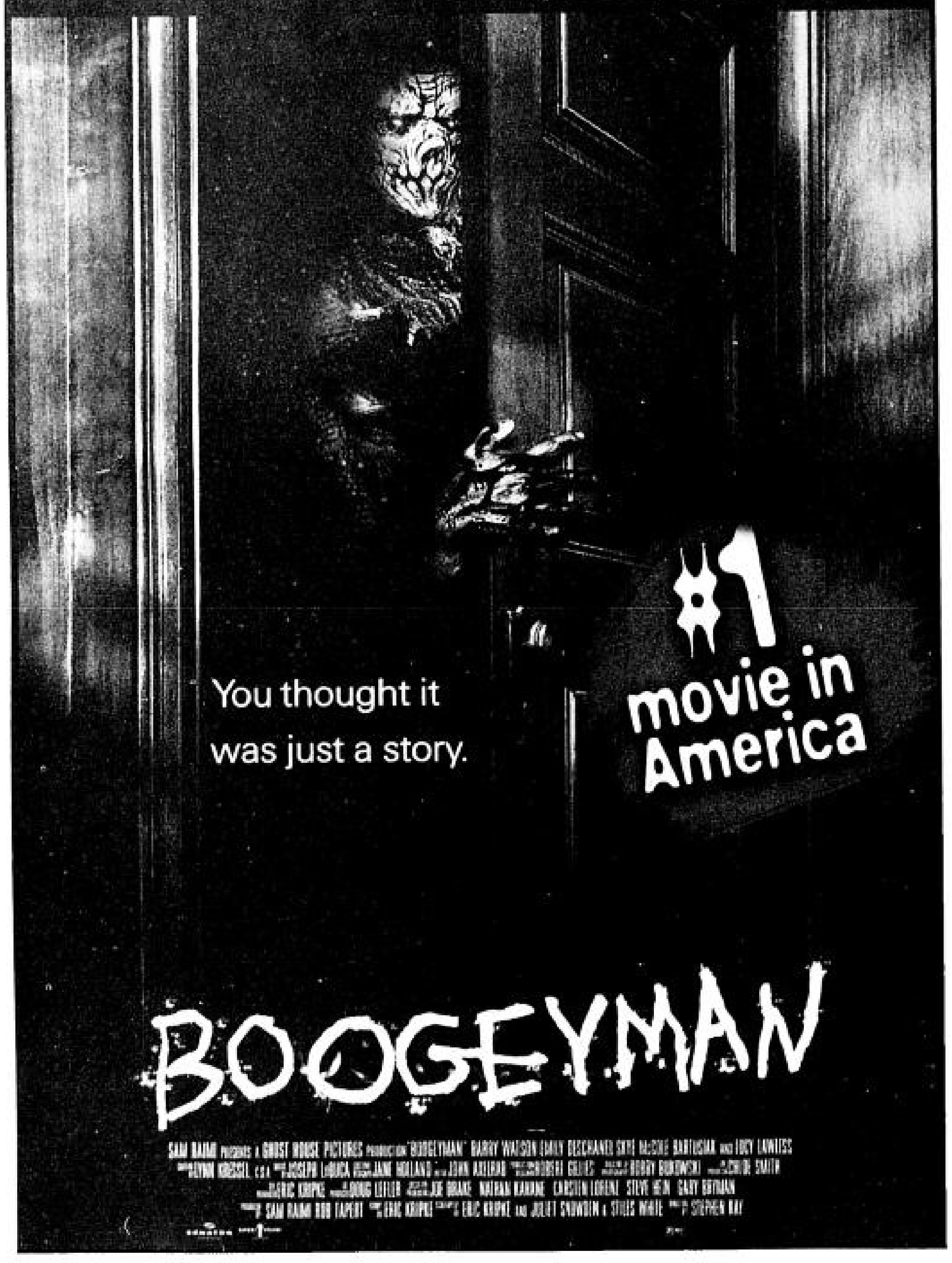
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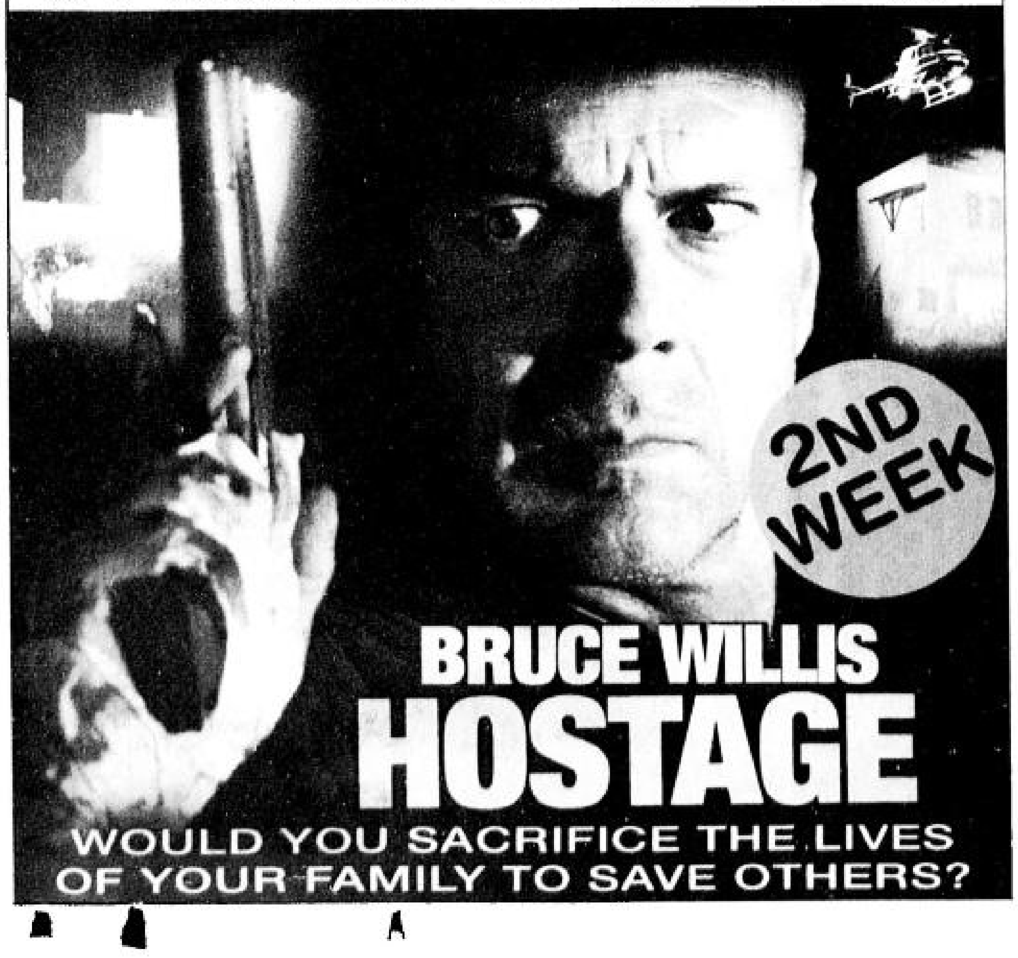
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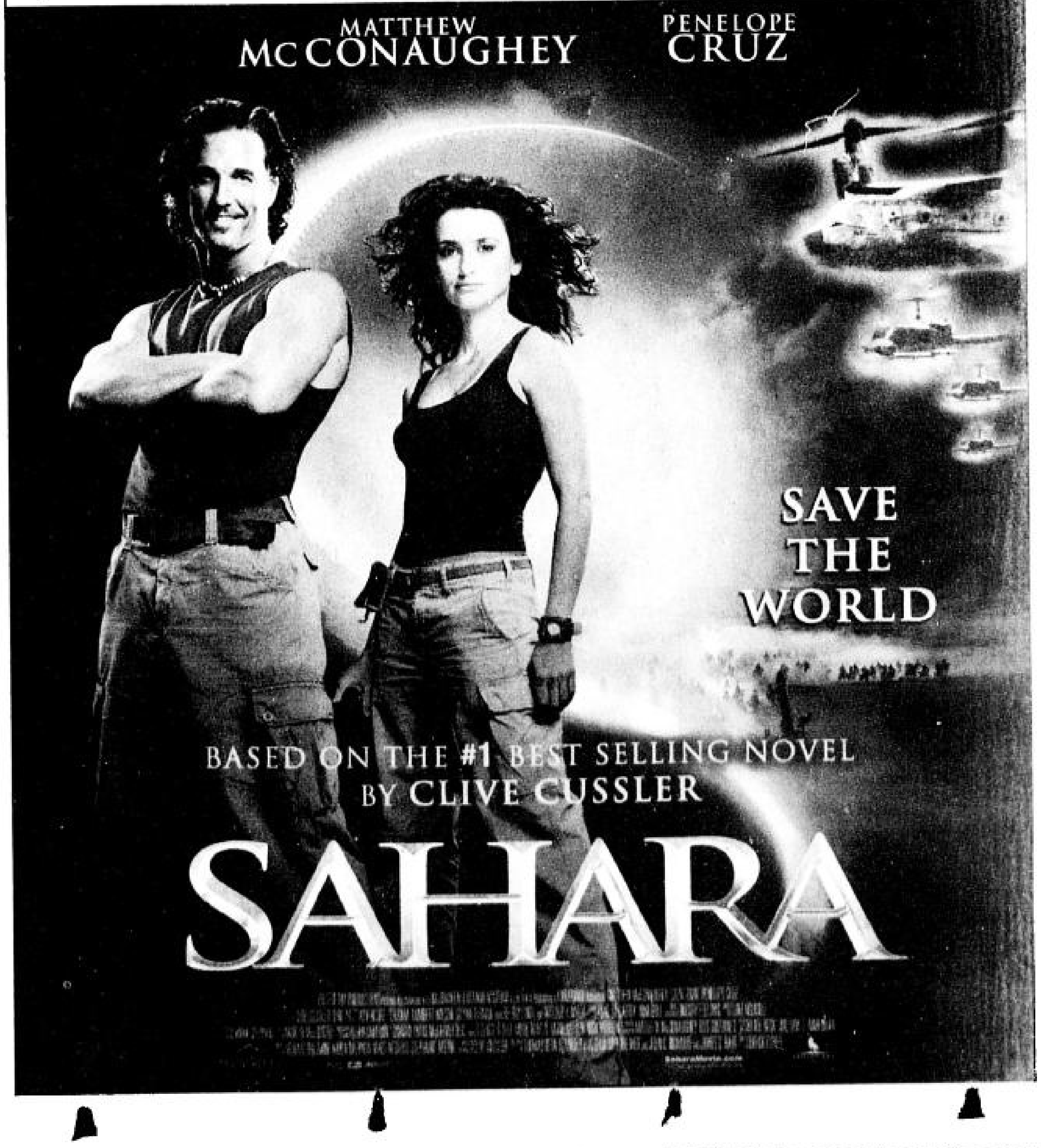

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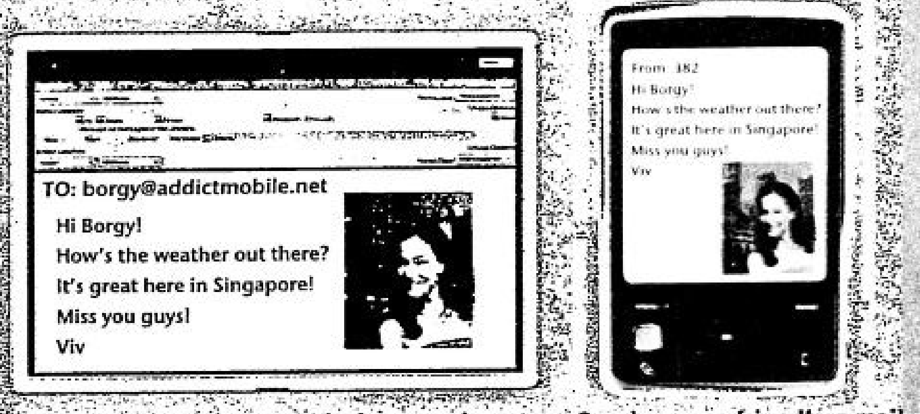
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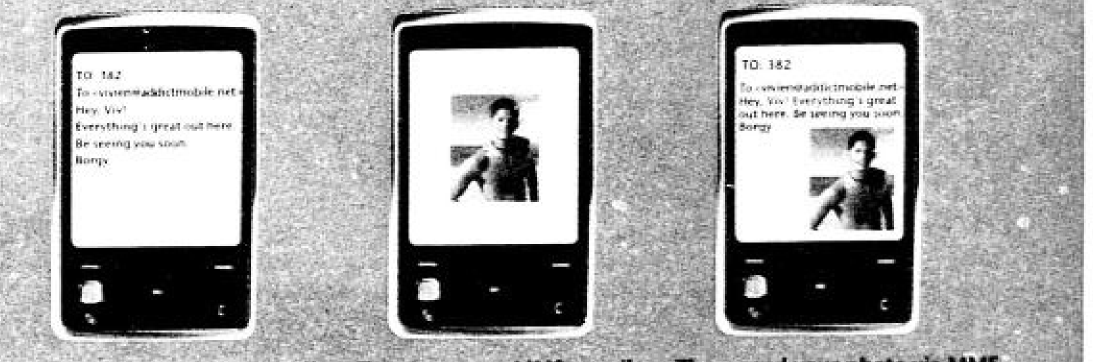
TO: 382
To <viv@addictmobile.net>
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Everything's great out here.
Be seeing you soon.
Borgy
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Hey, Viv! Everything's great out here. Be seeing you soon.
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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

NICOLE: "Big is beautiful."

4 new MTV VJs

THURSDAY night at the conclusion of the 2005 MTV VJ Hunt in Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard, four emerged victorious: Nicole Fonacier, Colby Miller, Claire Olivar, and Don Puno.

Nicole, a coordinator of college student activities at Assumption College, had been determined to become the first-ever plus-sized VJ. She succeeded, proudly flaunting her motto: "Big is beautiful!"

Colby is a self-proclaimed unemployment specialist-turned-television host out to carve his own niche. He fearlessly displayed his unique brand of killer wit—and shone.

Claire, a college freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University and dance enthusiast, is a bubbly girl-next-door type. She won the audience's hearts quite easily.

Don, a budding entrepreneur, theatre actor, and impersonator, was acknowledged to be the group's "cool geek" early on. He enjoys political debates and intellectual conversations but thinks nothing of switching to slapstick and dead-on impersonations of Hollywood actors, cartoon characters, political figures ... and his fellow finalists.

Every two years since 1997, MTV Philippines

4 NEW/ A3-2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Inquirer visits the set of 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'** /A3-2
- **'Shaolin vs the Evil Dead' reviewed** /A3-2

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Aside from the required name and address, the cellular phone number will serve as the participant's identification (ID). There can only be one (1) registered name per cellular phone number. Once a subscriber registers and joins the promotion, no one else will be allowed to register using the same cellular phone number, forfeiting any entries sent by the duplicating number. In the event that the winning mobile number was registered under two names, the first registered name will be recognized. However, one person can register several mobile numbers at one time.

Once the user registers, the system will prompt the subscriber to subscribe to the current and regular tracking of entries. The subscriber has the option to confirm by sending YES to 232, or decline by sending NO. Sending NO is free of charge.

Should the subscriber send YES, they will receive daily updates of their accumulated raffle entries and are also entitled to receive daily premium content prized at P2.50 such as logos, ringtones, picture messages and wallpapers.

There are three (3) ways to win:
1. Daily Prize: Ten (10) winners of P1,000 SMART Load.
2. Weekly: Twenty (25) winners will be drawn from Metro Manila to be studio contestants who will participate in GMA7's Lagot Ka! Game portion "Jackpot O Lowbat". As a studio contestant they automatically win P2,000 in cash, plus a chance to win even bigger prizes during the game.
3. One (1) winner will be drawn as the week's homepartner, with a guaranteed prize of P25,000 plus a chance to win even bigger prizes.

Prizes and promo schedule cut-off dates are as follows:

Daily Draws	Promo Period	Draw Date	Prizes at stake (to be drawn weekly)
Week 1	Jan 30 – Feb 5	February 9, 2005	Daily Prize: Ten (10) Winners per day of P1,000 SMART Load to be drawn on a weekly basis. Studio Contestants: Twenty (20) Metro Manila winners to be drawn to join the "Jackpot O Lowbat" game to be taped as live. Said participants automatically win P2,000 in cash when they participate in the game. One (1) Homepartner shall be drawn and will get a chance to win the same amount as the studio contestant.
Week 2	Feb 6 – 12	February 16, 2005	
Week 3	Feb 13 – 19	March 2, 2005	
Week 4	Feb 20 – 26	March 9, 2005	
Week 5	Feb 27 – Mar 5	March 16, 2005	
Week 6	Mar 6 – 12	March 23, 2005	
Week 7	Mar 13 – 19	March 30, 2005	
Week 8	Mar 20 – 26	April 6, 2005	
Week 9	Mar 27 – Apr 2	April 23, 2005	
Week 10	Apr 3 – 9	April 13, 2005	
Week 11	Apr 10 – 16	April 20, 2005	
Week 12	Apr 17 – 23	April 27, 2005	
Week 13	April 24 – 30	May 4, 2005	

* Non-winning entries per draw will be included in all succeeding draws.

Winners of the P1,000 SMART Load can only win once in the daily draw per weekly cut-off period but they can also be drawn to qualify as a studio contestant or as a homepartner for all weekly cut-off periods. However, if a participant is drawn as a homepartner and studio contestant in a weekly draw, she/he will automatically be the homepartner and another participant/subscriber shall be drawn as a studio contestant.

All winners will be informed initially via a call, text message and registered mail. Winners shall also be published in a newspaper of general circulation within one month after the draw.

From the date of notification, daily prize winners of P1,000 SMART Load shall be automatically loaded by the system to the winning cellphone number within fifteen (15) days from date of notification. For post-paid winners, the prize amount shall be deducted from their monthly billing.
For studio participants, all participants shall claim their prize at the taping day of the game show. Said date shall be confirmed to the winners by the Agency.
For the weekly homepartners, the winners may claim their prize at BBDO Guerrero Ortega, 24/F, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City within 60 days from the date of airing of the episode. For provincial homepartners, the check prize shall be sent to the nearest SMART Wireless Center of their area. The homepartner must present a valid ID and the winning sim to claim the prize.

TV Game Show – Jackpot O Lowbat:
The winning 25 studio contestants shall pass thru an off-cam elimination round to determine the 20 participating TV contestants. The eliminated five contestants will receive a SMART gift pack.

During the game proper, the remaining 20 TV contestants will then pass thru another elimination round wherein only one player shall be selected. The successful player will then be given several categories to choose from. Each category automatically wins for the player up to P50,000, depending on the subject chosen.

After the subject is chosen, the player shall randomly select three questions out of seven. Correctly answered questions are equivalent to a corresponding amount wherein the player can win up to P250,000 maximum.

- If all three questions are answered correctly, the player wins the jackpot prize of P250,000.
- If two questions are answered correctly, the player wins P150,000.
  *Then P100,000 will be carried on to the succeeding week's pot.
- If only one question is answered correctly, the player wins P100,000.
  *Then P150,000 will be carried on to the succeeding week's pot.

Example: Week 1 winner answers 2 questions out of 3.
Winner wins: P150,000.
*The P100,000 remaining prize shall be carried over to next week's pot money as a bonus.

The weekly pot money shall be carried on to succeeding weeks wherein players who correctly answer all three questions will win the jackpot prize of P250,000 plus the accumulated pot money.

The homepartner drawn for the week automatically wins the same amount as the week's player.

At the end of the season, in the event that there would be accumulated money remaining in the pot, the amount shall then be raffled off to all the subscribers nationwide.

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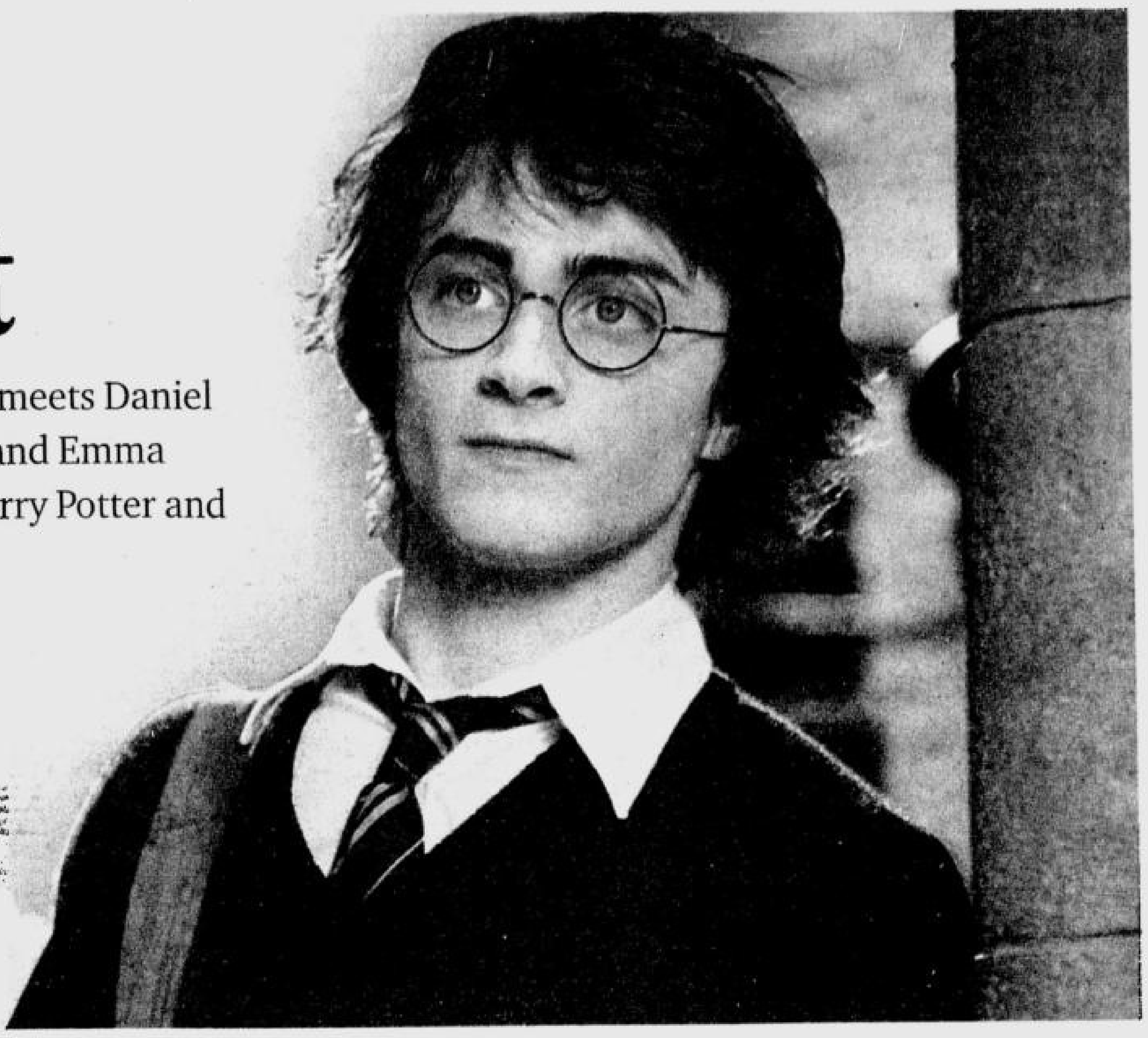
A rare and magical visit

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

Inquirer Entertainment meets Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson on the set of 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE



"HARRY is growing up and discovering girls," Radcliffe says.

LONDON—As the bus that picked us up at the Dorchester Hotel sped into the countryside, the wide open spaces made us feel like we were headed for Bulacan.

But no, we were not going to Meycauayan. We were bound for a visit—very rarely allowed—to the set of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." Our two teenage daughters would do anything to be in our shoes right this minute on this cold and gray early morning. Our excitement was no match to their "Oh, my Gawds!" (and their friends' as well) when they first heard that we received an invitation to visit Leavesden Studios, where Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson and company were filming the fourth film adaptation of novelist J.K. Rowling's best-selling "Harry Potter" series.

Joining the young cast is Katie Leung, a Chinese-Scottish girl who landed the Cho Chang role after a search that drew application letters from girls worldwide, including the Philippines, "Potter" producer David Heyman told INQUIRER Entertainment.

After an hour, we stopped at a guardgate. What lay beyond did not look promising—a vast field dotted by a few structures against a bleak sky. This used to be an airfield, where Britain's Ministry of Defense manufactured aircraft during World War II. When Rolls Royce took over and used Leavesden to make helicopter engines, the Guinness Book of Records listed it as the largest single factory in Europe under one roof. After Rolls Royce closed it in 1994, Leavesden began its new life as a film studio and became home to such blockbusters as "GoldenEye" and "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace."

Black tablecloths

Once the bus rolled on and we alighted in front of the studio, our experience turned anything but dreary. The place was huge! We were ushered into the studio and straight to a party tent—black, in keeping with "Harry Potter's" dark undercurrents. Even the tablecloths were black. The only touches of color came from accent fabrics in shimmering silver, which we later learned were also used at the Yule Ball, one of the film's big scenes, and the hues from the uniforms of the three wizardry schools, Hogwarts (Harry's cloak, pants and hat—certainly worth a fortune on eBay), Durmstrang and Beauxbatons, which were on display. Tables, chairs and props from previous "Potter" films completed the ambience.

The tent became our home for the day. However, we came out several times to heed exciting calls like, "Let's go see the dragon!" or to see the sets, watch actual filming and interview some of the stars between takes.

Daniel Radcliffe, not nerdy-looking at all minus his Harry Potter glasses, exclaimed, "Oh my, this is the attack of the killer microphones!" when the "Muggles" thrust their tape recorders at him.

How different would Harry be in this latest installment, Radcliffe was asked. His reply: "He's coming to terms with a lot of demons and things. He's forced to face them. He's a lot more vulnerable in this film. Sirius can't do anything because he can't come out of hiding to help Harry. Dumbledore doesn't know what's going on. But the main difference is that Harry is growing up and discovering girls."

The actor stressed that he remains enthusiastic about playing his phenomenally popular character: "I love acting because it's the only thing that I've been really good at. I have more confidence when I'm acting than when I'm doing anything that I would be doing at school, like [maybe] sports or writing."

Rupert Grint, very shy, carrot-colored bangs covering his eyes, talked about his fan mail: "I saw loads that just came; it has gone quite a little bit more. And I do read them." His voice has become noticeably bigger. "The most interesting things are the gifts that people send me. I get quite a lot of pajamas (laughs). It's a bit weird."

Emma Watson, lovelier in person in a pink shirt, brown jacket and blue jeans, gave the most candid, most refreshing statements. For instance, on Mike Newell, the first Englishman "Potter" director: "He brings a real sense of British boarding school sensibility to the film. We never really had a sense of that before. He also brings a lot of humor. This book ... when I read it, felt very dark. I think Mike noticed this. He really worked through the script carefully and picked out the humor where he could."

The two fortunate boys selected to join the young cast are heartthrob material. Robert Pattinson, the fair one, plays Cedric Diggory. He said of his experience being one of the new kids on the block: "We did a workshop before the principal shooting started. It was kind of a bonding-type thing. I was star-struck when I first came."

Of Leung, who plays a girl that his Cedric and Radcliffe's Harry both have a crush on, Pattinson revealed: "I don't really have that many big scenes with Katie but I've been trying to get the chemistry right. I see her a lot outside of the set. I suppose that helps."

Stanislav Ianevski, dark and appealing as Quidditch star Victor Krum, also shared his experience as a neophyte actor: "On my first few days, we did the maze scenes. In the very first scene, I had to fight with Cedric. I remember my heart pumping because it was the first time that I was in front of the cameras."

Did he think he was a potential heartbreaker? "I'm more of a heart pleaser (laughs)."

No Rowling

Asked whether J.K. Rowling ever came to the set, producer David Heyman replied, "She has not come down to the set; she didn't come down to the set of the third movie, either. She came once on the second and a couple of times on the first. But she is always there when we have questions."

About the possibility that one of the new members could have been a young Chinese girl from Manila, Heyman said of their talent search: "We actually found our Cho Chang in Scotland. Katie Leung is a young Scottish lady of Chinese heritage. She speaks the most beautiful, softest Scottish accent—it's really lovely."

Newell's credits include small but acclaimed films like "Mona Lisa Smile" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral." We asked how challenging it was to direct a big movie that leaned heavily on computer-generated visual effects. He answered, "I had never done a huge thing like this before. But the people on the film were very good about educating [me] ... from a state of ignorance to a level where I could look like I knew what I was talking about."

On the pressure to come up with his own style, after the impressive first three films by two different directors (the first two by Chris Columbus; the third by Alfonso Cuaron), Newell explained: "I watched both of Chris' films and I knew what I was going to do. I watched 40 or 50 minutes of Alfonso's film and realized with horror that Alfonso had already done it. I could make it darker, make the conflicts between the characters tougher until I was bleeding in the face but it wouldn't matter because Alfonso had done it first. So what I did was stop thinking who was first and who was last and that kind of competitive, going up the steps thing, and simply thought to myself, what do you really adore about this story? And you make a film that way. I adored seeing these kids growing up."

Bonuses

We got to sit on Harry's classroom chair and try his bed. We marveled at the expanse of The Great Hall, where crews were taking down yards of silver fabric from the Yule Ball scenes. We saw the Gryffindor Common Room, Dumbledore's Office, Trial Chamber, Trophy Room, and the train that takes Harry and the gang to and from Hogwarts, among others.

We came face to face with a dragon—a Hungarian horntail that figures prominently in this movie, a hippogriff and the vicious black dog in "Prisoner of Akzaban" as creature effects designer Nick Dudman welcomed us to his lair.

An unusual sight greeted us on one of our guided walks away from the tent—there were rows of owls being filmed quietly. And finally, we watched the cast do take after take of one of the opening scenes. Radcliffe, Grint, Watson and several other actors, most of them carrying backpacks, hiked up a hill (realistically created on the soundstage) to use the portkey that would transport them to the Quidditch World Cup.

In a parting shot, Newell told us, "In another seven months (the movie is slated to open in November), we will see whether I made it or not."

COLBY, unemployment specialist

CLAIRE, bubbly girl next door

4 new MTV VJs

From page A3-1

has scoured the country in search of dynamic, vibrant, and unique personalities. The 2005 campaign proved to be the biggest yet. Over 500 turned up for the auditions and, unlike in past hunts when only two winners were picked, this year yielded four certified MTV VJs. They join the current roster consisting of KC Montero, Sarah Meier, Marc Abaya, Cindy Kurleto, Reema Chanco, Mariel Rodriguez, Maike Evers, Cesca Litton, and John Joe Joseph.

Prior to Thursday's program, the 16 finalists had to hurdle numerous challenges set by MTV to test their skills onscreen and off.

The star-studded evening featured performances by Francis M, Session Road, Juan Pablo Dream, and South Border, with a special opening number starring KC, Sarah, Cindy, and Marc, together with Kjwan and Jimmy Muna. Former MTV VJs Donita Rose, Jamie Wilson, and Patty Laurel were also spotted cheering all the finalists.

MTV Philippines airs the finalist night on April 10, 9 p.m., with replays on April 15, 10 p.m.; and April 17, 1 a.m.

DON, cool geek

Annoying zombies, but harmless

By Nice Rodriguez & Elvira Mata

Shaolin vs Evil Dead
Directed by Douglas Kung

REVIEW

ELVIRA (to ticket lady in a multiplex): Two tickets to "Shaolin vs Evil Dead," please. And hurry, because we still have to buy popcorn.

Ticket Lady: I'm sorry ma'am. We have not received the permit to screen from the MTRCB.

Elvira: But the show starts in 10 minutes!

TL: It's on the way, ma'am.

Elvira: Promise you won't start the movie until after you've let people in.

Security Guard: Ma'am, if the permit does not arrive, we'll cancel the first showing.

Nice: We can't stick around for two hours waiting for a movie called "Evil Dead." Let's just watch "Bahay ni Lola 2."

Elvira: Haven't you learned your lesson? We watched half a Tagalog movie last week and you had temporary amnesia.

TL: Excuse me, ma'am. We called the office of Ms La Guardia (MTRCB chief) and they said we could let people in now.

NINETY MINUTES LATER . . .

Nice (watching in disbelief as the credits were rolling): Was that the end?

Elvira: It's like the *lagarista* (stressed man on a bike carrying movie reels, shuttling between two cinemas) lost one reel and that's it—The End.

Nice (still watching the credits, featuring outtakes): These are more breathtaking than the actual movie.

There is not much action in this martial arts movie. Half of the film is a battle between two monks and zombies—how much movement could be wrung out of resurrected corpses? How many stunts could be choreographed for them?

The zombies are annoying but harmless, only managing to hop about with outstretched arms, over and over, until their spirits are zapped into eggs and carried away by either monk.

If that's not unfair enough, how about shrinking a zombie midget who can only defend himself by hugging his attacker's legs?

Elvira: He reminds me of Dobby, the pesky house elf in "Harry Potter's Chamber of Secrets" and Gollum, that bug-eyed former hobbit suffering from multiple personality disorder in "Lord of the Rings Return of the King." But while Dobby and Gollum are computer-generated creatures, the midget in "Shaolin vs Evil Dead" is a real person. By the way, is it politically correct to say midget? Shouldn't we say "little people" or "dwarf?"

Nice: I'm sure the little zombie won't mind. The dead are not leprous enough, and after viewers' exposure to too much "Fear Factor," even the maggots are not gooey enough.

The only real Shaolin stunts that can be enjoyed here are those executed by the virgin army—kids, perhaps no older than eight years old, who are being prepared to fight evil forces. Did you check out the expression on their faces? Those kids are serious!

And the humor? Of the toilet variety—pissing on posts, voodoo performed with urine, an exploding lavatory ...

Elvira: Now I know that pissing on posts and walls is an Asian predilection, not just Pinoy. I liked the chanting, though.

Nice: I liked Brother White (Gordon Liu) invoking the spirits in limericks. "The night is dark. The road is long. Spirits of the dead, return to your homes." Or "God above, God below, give me eyes to see."

After the zombies have been exorcised, the movie lightens up with a courtship scene on a hanging bridge between Sun (Jacky Woo), loyal to Brother White and Moon (Shannon Yoh), assistant of Brother Black (Louis Fan). If you don't think chilled *taho* is romantic, you'll change your mind after this scene.

Toward the end, Brother Black unwittingly resurrects a mega vampire. Just when I was starting to enjoy the movie, it ended so abruptly and the hero is not any of the main actors.

It's sad because the movie has many, many possibilities. It would have been a good venue to express the depths of Asian fantasy. Scenes like the paper army being transformed into junior Shaolin monks, origami herons that deliver messages, and zapping zombies with Taoist prayer paper—there could have been more of these.

Fan is a filmmaker's gem. Not only does he have intense and powerful eyes, he emotes intuitively with his body. His poses are compelling to watch. He could just stand or sit still and the movie would move forward. After the story, editing and direction have all collapsed, Fan still stands out.

Elvira: I liked his punk hair style. He looked more like a *fashionista*, not an evil Shaolin monk.

(Got something to say about a movie? E-mail comments to every1isacritic@yahoo.com)

Summer course in pop singing

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, now on its 21st pop year, reopens "Starborne" training again this summer.

The training aims to prepare singing enthusiasts to perform like pros, according to Butch Albarracin, CPMP founder and CEO.

Among today's stars who took the "Starborne" course are Sarah Geronimo, Erik Santos, Rachel Ann Go, Frenchy Dy, Nina, Nyoy Volante, Jimmy Bondoc, Dessa, Geneva Cruz and Roselle Nava.

The 18-session course includes live performances and a recital concert in a music lounge.

Registration is ongoing. Call 7210731 for details.

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TV GUIDE
Sunday, March 20, 2005

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		SCQ Reload		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Wansapanataym		Sunday Family Cinema			
NBN		Value Vision		Kabataan News Network	Family Rosary Crusade	Concert at the Park		Kamao		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Battle Of Royale		To Be Announced					Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Viva Cine Idols				ABC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigstars	Love To Love			S-Files				Naks	Mel & Joey Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		Road Trip	Simple Life	Smackdown		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						The Working President	Ugnayan
IBC 13		Lifestyle		America Atbp.		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Retro TV	All Filipino Billiards Open					Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Solar	The Sib Show	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Pride FC				Slamball	
Nickelodeon	Girls in Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	The Adventures Of Tenali Raman	1, 2, 3	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Dateline							What I Like About You	The O.C.		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2			Nip/Tuck		Dateline	
Cinema One				Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita				Dahil Ba Sa Kanya				Sabel				Saan Nagtatago Ang Pag-ibig			
Studio 23			Spotlight TV	BYK 101	Hotwire TV	Top Gear	Game Plan	Nandig The Hidden Files		Exposed		Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)		Fastlane (11:15PM)	
AXN		Arlington Road					The Right Stuff II	Now See This		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor		C.S.I.		Lost		The Contender	
Star World		Outback Jack		Miss Match		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Wild Card		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		Absolutely Fabulous	Absolutely Fabulous	Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart, Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	CNN Presents: A Rising Tide: The Threat Of Global Warming	Talk Asia	World News	MainSail	World News	The Daily Show With John Stewart, Global Edition	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week		Human Edge	Crittercam Wildtech Adventure	Science Times		Air Crash Investigation		Megastructures		Ultimate Survivor: The Mystery Of Us				Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports		NBA Game Sacramento @ Clippers					WTA '05 Volvo Women's Open Fin					NBA Jam L917	GWS Ep.11-2005	Boxing - Pacquiao vs. Morales					
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America Wi' Mario Batali	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Planet Parent	You're Invited
HBO		Moto X Kids (3:05PM)			City Slickers: The Legend Of Curly's Gold				Kangaroo Jack			The Devil's Own				Intolerable Cruelty (9:50PM)			Star Trek Nemesis
Star Movies	Spartacus			The Beast			The Beast 2	Me, Myself and Irene (7:05 PM)				28 Days Later				Alien (10:55PM)			
Cartoon Network	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown	Winx Club	Atomic Betty		Megas XLR	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Duck Dodgers	Time Squad	Samurai Jack	Xiaolin Showdown
ESPN		Acc Basketball Georgia Tch @ Nrth Carolina				Acc Basketball NC State vs Duke				Acc Basketball Georgia Tch @ Nrth Carolina		World Pool Masters, '04 Ann Zan, Holland		Asian Tour: TCL Classic Sanya '05					
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery/That's So Raven/Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				America's Funniest Home Video	Aladdin			Dave The Barbarian	Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	That's So Raven	The Kids Who Saved Summer	
Cinemax			Hercules And The Lost Kingdom				The Job			Hollywood Homicide				Patriot Games				The Tuxedo (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel		Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon	Word Of Honor		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed And Manipulation				While I Was Gone			Wire In The Blood (10:35PM)		Wire In The Blood (11:25PM)		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Rides		Extreme Engineering		Hour Asia				Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines													Newlyweds	Got A Grip					
Sports Plus		The Honda Classic Highlights		Italia Serie A				World Poker Tour ep.8 Los Angeles				NCAA rd.2				Bay Hill Invitational Day3			
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dies	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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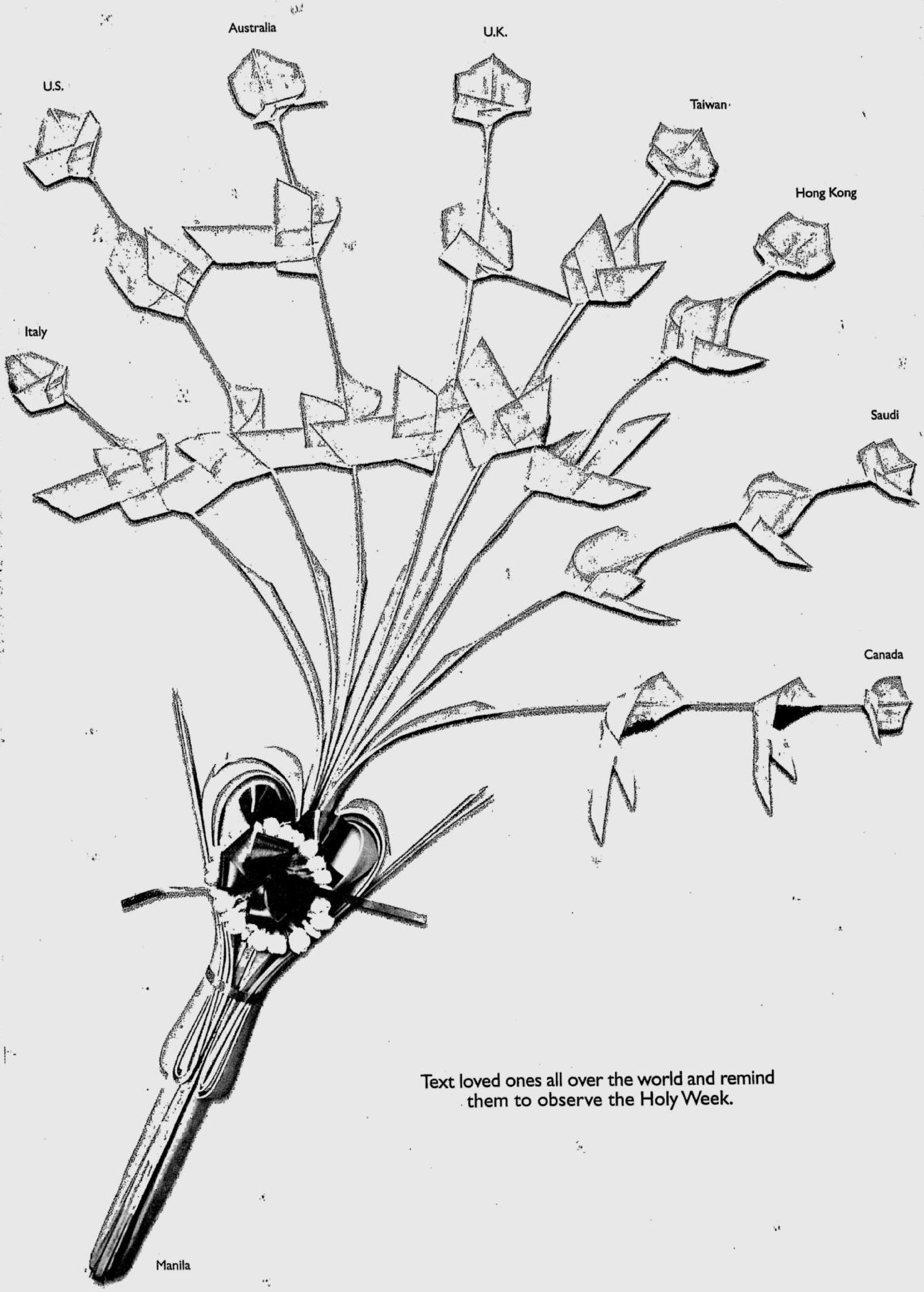

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Sunday BIZ

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'It's time for Filipinos to make money'

Local students beat American counterparts with better business plans

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

"IT'S time for Filipinos to make money," states newly appointed Presidential Consultant on Entrepreneurship and RFM Corp. president Jose Concepcion III.

And this tenet has been transferred to his children, albeit they do not really need to make money yet.

Concepcion, whose first foray into entrepreneurship was as a high school student selling encyclopedias, says he gives limited allowances to his kids when they are in the US and the enterprising youngsters set up lemonade stands to earn a few extra bucks.

Or have mini-foot spas in their beach house in Batangas servicing friends and relatives.

Concepcion's rally is backed by some good news. Two groups of emerging Filipino entrepreneurs gained prominence across the United States early this month, outshining some of the best business ideas from around the world during two business plan competitions hosted by prestigious US schools.

THE WINNING Team 2005 Entrepreneurial Idol Contest Dean Danny Cabulay, Michael Moro, Dianna Chebat, Prof. Gerald Villar, Danilo Marte with Joey Concepcion (2nd from left)

Alternative boards

At the 21st Annual Battle of the Business Plans last March 3 at Harvard Business School in Massachusetts, an undergraduate team from Far Eastern University bagged two of seven major prizes at stake. The FEU team— represented by students Dianna Chebat and Michael Morro and advised by FEU business school Dean Danny Cabulay and marketing professor Gerald Villar—presented a business plan for manufacturing alternative construction boards out of recycled aluminum packaging materials. Through a compelling presentation, teamwork and a strong defense, the team earned the judges' nod for the "Most Likely to Have a Global Impact Award" sponsored by Microsoft, and tied with a US team for the "People's Choice Award" sponsored by Nokia Ventures.

Breakthrough technology

One week later across the US mainland, Silliman University graduate student Bonifacio Comandante grabbed the best international business plan award over 150 contestants from 18 countries at the University of San Francisco business plan competition. Comandante impressed a jury of Silicon Valley venture capitalists with his breakthrough technology enabling live fish to be transported without water for a day.

These outstanding feats were recognized by Concepcion upon the teams' arrival last week. "We hope the victory of the Filipino teams will drive more aspiring entrepreneurs in the Philippines to work on their business ideas and transform them into actual businesses," he says.

Concepcion is currently holding talks with various sectors to draw up a game plan that would encourage entrepreneurship among Filipinos.

He quotes author Francisco Colayco, who says there are two types of entrepreneurs—active and passive.

"Passive entrepreneurs are those who are investors by asking a relative to buy a tricycle and letting the relative use it but they get a percentage. Active are those who run businesses."

Redefining entrepreneurship

As a presidential consultant, Concepcion wants to be able to remake Philippine SMEs from cottage industries to world-class institutions.

"We have to go beyond cottage industries." he says in an interview with SundayBiz. "Other countries put a lot of emphasis on entrepreneurship."

Concepcion adds there are actually already a lot of agencies promoting entrepreneurship. "I would like to gather everyone in one room and come up with an advocacy on the kind of entrepreneurial spirit we Filipinos can promote.

"We also have to improve the quality of our entrepreneurs. Not all can be world-class or Philippine class," he says, citing the hundreds of thousands of sari-sari stores in the country. However, he points out these constitute a venue for passive investors such as overseas Filipino workers who set up ventures that could earn revenues for their families while they are away.

Concepcion would also like to also create a matrix for the different entrepreneurial schools to create a base curriculum.

He adds entrepreneurs are optimistic people. "To be a successful entrepreneur you have to be optimistic."

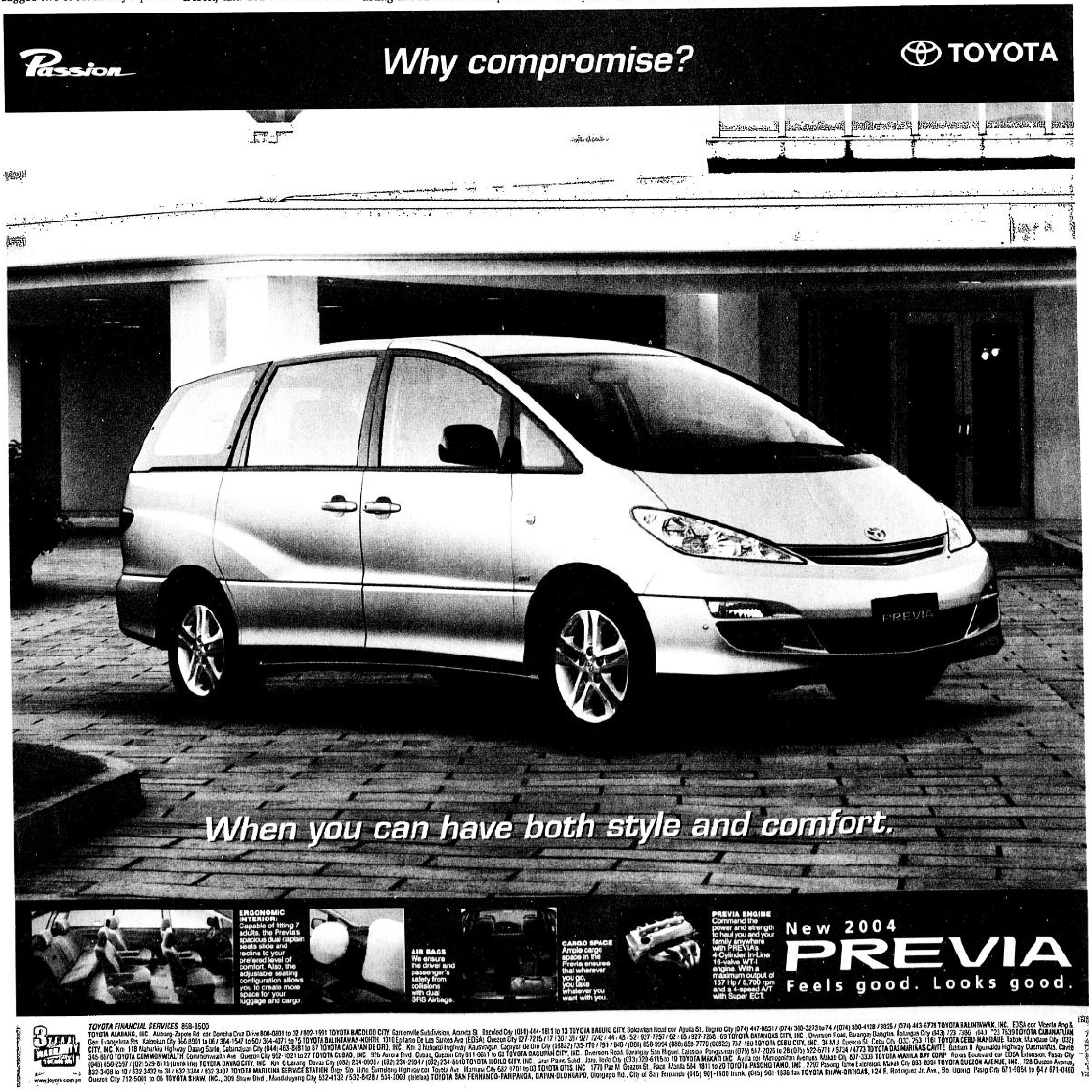
All four Philippine teams in the Harvard contest, dubbed "Entrepreneurial Idol," made it into the semifinal round.

Further, entrepreneurs are not discouraged by bureaucracy and other deterrents to business. "Entrepreneurs live with the system. They do their best to correct government shortcomings. That's what differentiates entrepreneurs—they are not easily discouraged."

Winning students

The winning FEU students presented their technology as a viable solution to the massive global housing backlog that was further worsened by recent natural calamities. The three other Philippine entries were from University of the Philippines (low-cost medical devices) in the collegiate category, and the young professional teams of Tenorio Manila (upscale designer shoes) and Institute for Contact Center Communication & Leadership or ICCCL (call center training services). They competed

IT'S TIME/ B2



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Tales of uncommon courage behind business headlines

"Out of the Lions' Den"
By Perfecto R. Yasay Jr.
New Day Publishers, 2005

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

AN INSIGHTFUL observer this side of the world once said he seems to be reading of different countries when he reads the general news section, on one hand, and the business section, on the other. The news department portrays a country marked by chaos, punctuated by excesses, a nation out of control. The business page, on the other hand, conjures an image of a country characterized by corporate order, driven by sobriety, and a controlled environment.

The news pages scream with headline-hogging stories of heinous crimes, paralyzing strikes, sex escapades, heroic acts, salacious entertainment news, shocking oddities, and all other tales that keep the reader on his toes, wide awake or running scared.

In contrast, the business section report corporate events (no less dramatic, if I may add) like well-executed mergers, hostile acquisitions, corporate rescue efforts, intra-corporate shareholder issues. These stories are written according to the "discipline" of business writing—using well-contrived bland language and studied understatement.

What no one knows is that behind staid business headlines are—not only stories of spying, intrigue, and conflict; but also fresh stories of quiet heroism and uncommon courage. This is especially true when regulators stand their ground to keep an industry on an even keel, amidst a brewing storm of protests by industry players or a gathering gale of government abuse and interference.

That is what the book, "Out of the Lions' Den," revealed about the staid and proper corporate world. The book is authored by former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., the same official who figured prominently in tri-media due to his collision with—and subsequent testimony against—then President Joseph Estrada.

You may read in the business pages about the rehabilitation of the Philippine Airlines, the acquisition of substantial PLDT shares by a Hong Kong-based company, the suspicious rise of the stock prices of an undercapitalized firm, the suspension of the operations of the Philippine Stock Exchange, etc.

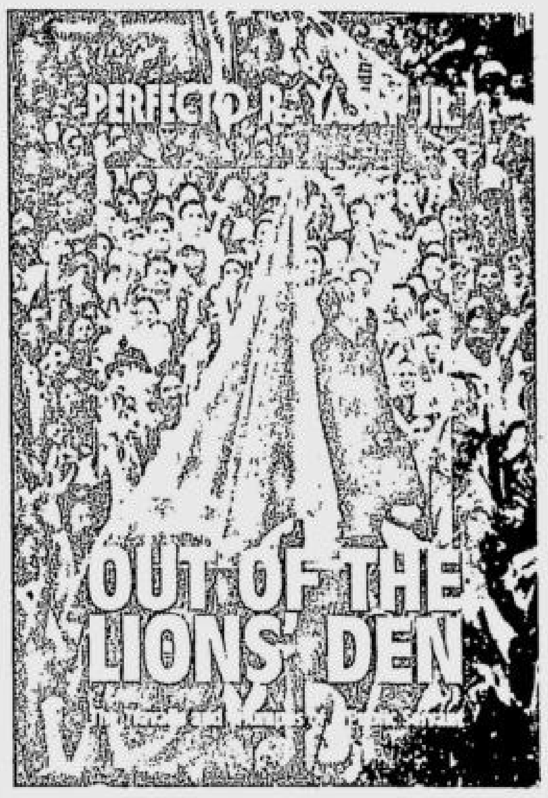
What you won't read - and what this book reveals for the first time - are the earnest negotiation efforts to save an airline, the saga of surviving a collision course with no less than the highest official of the land, the relentless pressures from the Palace—and, yes, the courage (bordering on heroic or quixotic) of Yasay.

Recalling a threat from a former President, the author recounts: "I kept my composure but felt deeply disturbed, fully aware that the publicity was fanning the flames of conflict and provoking possible physical harm against me. And yet the media coverage was also my best protection."

It isn't true that courage is the absence of fear, then. Courage is the mastery of fear. In this book, Yasay reveals the human side of a man worried about the safety of wife and daughter, and yet showing the strength as a corporate gladiator.

The book, to pick up a phrase used by former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga (who wrote the Foreword), is a "gripping eyewitness account" of the events that began when Jun Yasay said no to the President, that moved on through the impeachment proceedings—and then found its fitting denouement in Edsa II that mercifully ended the short-lived regime of Yasay's nemesis.

The book is more than a spectator's story. It is a saga of a storyteller-participant, thrown into the arena, getting some bruises as he cross swords, stumbling but rising again—but stronger, wiser and braver—prepared for a shattering defeat but, somehow, sensing in his veins the exhilarating sense of triumph.



It is also a heartwarming story of one, with an unfinished business to deal with; one who, after four years, decided to re-visit what he calls "the poignant pain of reliving terrifying experiences." Does he want to come to terms with himself? Is he making sense of those dizzying developments and unrelenting pressures—so, with hindsight, he can provide perspective?

Or, maybe, we should take his word for it, when he says: "I believe that unless we learn lessons from our sad national experience, we can never be liberated from our ignorance and wretchedness."

There are actually a number of ways to read the Yasay book. One, you can note the corporate events, and then get an inside track with Yasay "telling it like it is." Two, you can follow the "obstacle course" of the author—exult with him when he wins and share his anger when the bad boys and girls misbehave. Three, place yourself in the shoes of the author, feel the slings and arrows shot his way. Be torn between the horns of a dilemma—one, keep your job and lose your soul; or, two, resign your post and so keep your soul safe from the grasp of Faustus.

Then, immerse yourself in this real-life morality play, and know how it feels to be Yasay. You may stumble upon this truth, quoting Yasay: "You can only stand your ground when you fall on your knees." *(executiveread@creativepointintl.com)*

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'It's time for Filipinos to make money

From page B1

against 39 other semifinalists composed of teams from Harvard Business School/Harvard University, MIT Sloan/MIT, Babson College, Boston University, and other leading American universities, as well as professionals and entrepreneurs from the United States.

The Philippine teams at Harvard were sponsored and coached by the Global Entrepreneurship Network-Philippines (GEN-P), an organization dedicated to strengthening Philippine global competitiveness led by Filipino alumni and students from Harvard University and Columbia Business School.

The four teams were coached by US-based Filipino co-founders of GEN-P in preparation for the intense and rigorous Harvard competition. They included Ayesha Vera-Yu, a Fil-American who is currently a director and top banker at leading global French investment bank BNP Paribas; HBS student leader Analisa Balares; Yeng Felipe, who is pursuing her masters in public administration at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Ella Aglipay, an MBA-MPA alumna from both HBS and the Kennedy School of Government.

Concepcion, who was the lead juror recently of another business plan contest sponsored by HSBC, added: "It's exhilarating to witness such entrepreneurial energy which, by the way, is absolutely contagious. Seeing firsthand the innovation, analysis, and passion of these young Filipino entrepreneurs with their business ideas, reinforces my belief that encouraging entrepreneurship is a sustainable solution to the development challenges facing our economy."

Comandante's invention, meanwhile, continued its string of recognitions since being adjudged as best thesis by the Philippine Association of Graduate Educators and topping the 1st Negros Oriental Innovation Awards last year. From a P50,000 start-up capital awarded by the Negros Oriental Business Development Foundation, Comandante started a company now known as the Buhi International Group (BIG), with P5 million in additional capital already raised from Filipino, Japanese and Australian investors.

Justin Crandall, director of the Harvard Battle of the Business Plans Contest, noted that this year's contest showed numerous highly competitive teams from among professionals, serial entrepreneurs, MBAs and students. "We were thrilled to have the participation of four outstanding teams from the Philippines under our Global Entrepreneurship Network initiative. Entrepreneurship has the power to change the world and the contestants from the Philippines demonstrated the kind of vision necessary to lead the way. All the Philippine teams demonstrated impressive business acumen, especially the FEU team that won two out of seven awards."

CONCEPCION: Entrepreneurship must be redefined

The four Philippine teams were sent to Boston after topping the Philippine Battle of the Business Plans Contest held last Jan. 11 in Manila. GEN-P's inaugural business plan competition required contestants to focus on business plans serving a global market, and drew over 50 entries from local undergrads, graduate students and professionals. FEU's Board-Tech team bagged first place in the undergrad category, followed by UP's MedLabs team at second place. Medlabs' promising business plan centered on the design and manufacture of low-cost, high quality medical instruments for developing countries and emerging markets. The MedLabs team was represented by John Glenn Kilayko, Romulo Par and Mae Que, and advised by Professor Osmonn Burgos of UP Diliman's School of Engineering.

In the professional category, Tenorio Manila, which has already started, is a globally-focused shoe design and manufacturing business with ambitions to rival designer shoes made in Italy and Brazil. The team was represented by award-winning designer Brian Tenorio, together with Angel Escano and Namee Jorolan. The ICCCL business plan focused on providing training services to quickly bridge the gap between the 40,000 Filipino call center applicants that annually pass the rigorous call center exams, and the industry demand for 140,000 call center service agents. The ICCCL Team was represented by Mennen Aracid, Angeli Lambsdorff, Paul Santos, and Joseph Sta. Ana.

GEN-Philippines will hold the second Battle of the Business Plans this June. Last January's GEN-P contest was sponsored by Chikka, the Entrepreneurship Club of Harvard Business School, and 85 Broads, the global network of women currently and formerly from Goldman Sachs and from 20 of the world's leading MBA programs.

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2. Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC President - DLSU, "Forum Opening Remarks"
3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB, Keynote Speaker
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart, "Communicate Effectively or Be Left Behind"
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Unit. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc., "Have Emotional Intelligence, Have a Great Career"
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU, "Down but Not Out: Career Applications from the 2004 DLSU Basketball Championship Team"
Evening Session
(Start: 5:00 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU, "Opening Remarks"
2. Franco del Rosario, CEO - 6Sigma Consulting, "The Single Biggest Thing That Can Help or Hinder Your Career"
3. James Matti, CEO Ayala AON, "It Is the Minor Details which Lead to the Major League!"
4. Gerard Sanvictores, SGV Partner, "The 3 Musts Executives Look For In Candidates"
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AN INSIGHTFUL observer this side of the world once said he seems to be reading of different countries when he reads the general news section, on one hand, and the business section, on the other. The news department portrays a country marked by chaos, punctuated by excesses, a nation out of control. The business page, on the other hand, conjures an image of a country characterized by corporate order, driven by sobriety, and a controlled environment.

The news pages scream with headline-hogging stories of heinous crimes, paralyzing strikes, sex escapades, heroic acts, salacious entertainment news, shocking oddities, and all other tales that keep the reader on his toes, wide awake or running scared.

In contrast, the business section report corporate events (no less dramatic, if I may add) like well-executed mergers, hostile acquisitions, corporate rescue efforts, intra-corporate shareholder issues. These stories are written according to the "discipline" of business writing—using well-contrived bland language and studied understatement.

What no one knows is that behind staid business headlines are—not only stories of spying, intrigue, and conflict; but also fresh stories of quiet heroism and uncommon courage. This is especially true when regulators stand their ground to keep an industry on an even keel, amidst a brewing storm of protests by industry players or a gathering gale of government abuse and interference.

That is what the book, "Out of the Lions' Den," revealed about the staid and proper corporate world. The book is authored by former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto R. Yasay Jr., the same official who figured prominently in tri-media due to his collision with—and subsequent testimony against—then President Joseph Estrada.

You may read in the business pages about the rehabilitation of the Philippine Airlines, the acquisition of substantial PLDT shares by a Hong Kong-based company, the suspicious rise of the stock prices of an undercapitalized firm, the suspension of the operations of the Philippine Stock Exchange, etc.

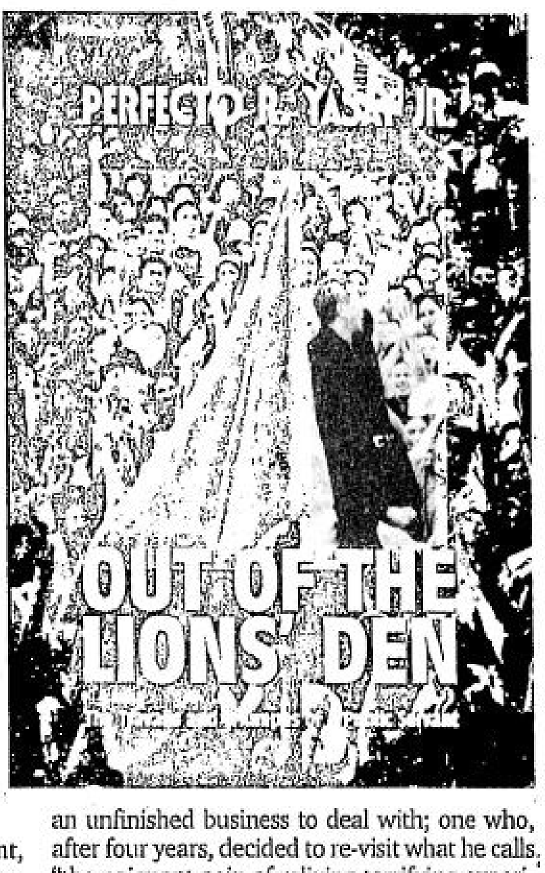
What you won't read - and what this book reveals for the first time - are the earnest negotiation efforts to save an airline, the saga of surviving a collision course with no less than the highest official of the land, the relentless pressures from the Palace—and, yes, the courage (bordering on heroic or quixotic) of Yasay.

Recalling a threat from a former President, the author recounts: "I kept my composure but felt deeply disturbed, fully aware that the publicity was fanning the flames of conflict and provoking possible physical harm against me. And yet the media coverage was also my best protection."

It isn't true that courage is the absence of fear, then. Courage is the mastery of fear. In this book, Yasay reveals the human side of a man worried about the safety of wife and daughter, and yet showing the strength as a corporate gladiator.

The book, to pick up a phrase used by former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga (who wrote the Foreword), is a "gripping eyewitness account" of the events that began when Jun Yasay said no to the President, that moved on through the impeachment proceedings—and then found its fitting denouement in Edsa II that mercifully ended the short-lived regime of Yasay's nemesis.

The book is more than a spectator's story. It is a saga of a storyteller-participant, thrown into the arena, getting some bruises as he cross swords, stumbling but rising again—but stronger, wiser and braver—prepared for a shattering defeat but, somehow, sensing in his veins the exhilarating sense of triumph.



It is also a heartwarming story of one, with an unfinished business to deal with; one who, after four years, decided to re-visit what he calls "the poignant pain of reliving terrifying experiences." Does he want to come to terms with himself? Is he making sense of those dizzying developments and unrelenting pressures—so, with hindsight, he can provide perspective?

Or, maybe, we should take his word for it, when he says: "I believe that unless we learn lessons from our sad national experience, we can never be liberated from our ignorance and wretchedness."

There are actually a number of ways to read the Yasay book. One, you can note the corporate events, and then get an inside track with Yasay "telling it like it is." Two, you can follow the "obstacle course" of the author—exult with him when he wins and share his anger when the bad boys and girls misbehave. Three, place yourself in the shoes of the author, feel the slings and arrows shot his way. Be torn between the horns of a dilemma—one, keep your job and lose your soul; or, two, resign your post and so keep your soul safe from the grasp of Faustus.

Then, immerse yourself in this real-life morality play, and know how it feels to be Yasay. You may stumble upon this truth, quoting Yasay: "You can only stand your ground when you fall on your knees." *(executiveread@creativepointintl.com)*

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'It's time for Filipinos to make money

From page B1

against 39 other semifinalists composed of teams from Harvard Business School/Harvard University, MIT Sloan/MIT, Babson College, Boston University, and other leading American universities, as well as professionals and entrepreneurs from the United States.

The Philippine teams at Harvard were sponsored and coached by the Global Entrepreneurship Network-Philippines (GEN-P), an organization dedicated to strengthening Philippine global competitiveness led by Filipino alumni and students from Harvard University and Columbia Business School.

The four teams were coached by US-based Filipino co-founders of GEN-P in preparation for the intense and rigorous Harvard competition. They included Ayesha Vera-Yu, a Fil-American who is currently a director and top banker at leading global French investment bank BNP Paribas; HBS student leader Analisa Balares; Yeng Felipe, who is pursuing her masters in public administration at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and Ella Aglipay, an MBA-MPA alumna from both HBS and the Kennedy School of Government.

Concepcion, who was the lead juror recently of another business plan contest sponsored by HSBC, added: "It's exhilarating to witness such entrepreneurial energy which, by the way, is absolutely contagious. Seeing firsthand the innovation, analysis, and passion of these young Filipino entrepreneurs with their business ideas, reinforces my belief that encouraging entrepreneurship is a sustainable solution to the development challenges facing our economy."

Comandante's invention, meanwhile, continued its string of recognitions since being adjudged as best thesis by the Philippine Association of Graduate Educators and topping the 1st Negros Oriental Innovation Awards last year. From a P50,000 start-up capital awarded by the Negros Oriental Business Development Foundation, Comandante started a company now known as the Buhi International Group (BIG), with P5 million in additional capital already raised from Filipino, Japanese and Australian investors.

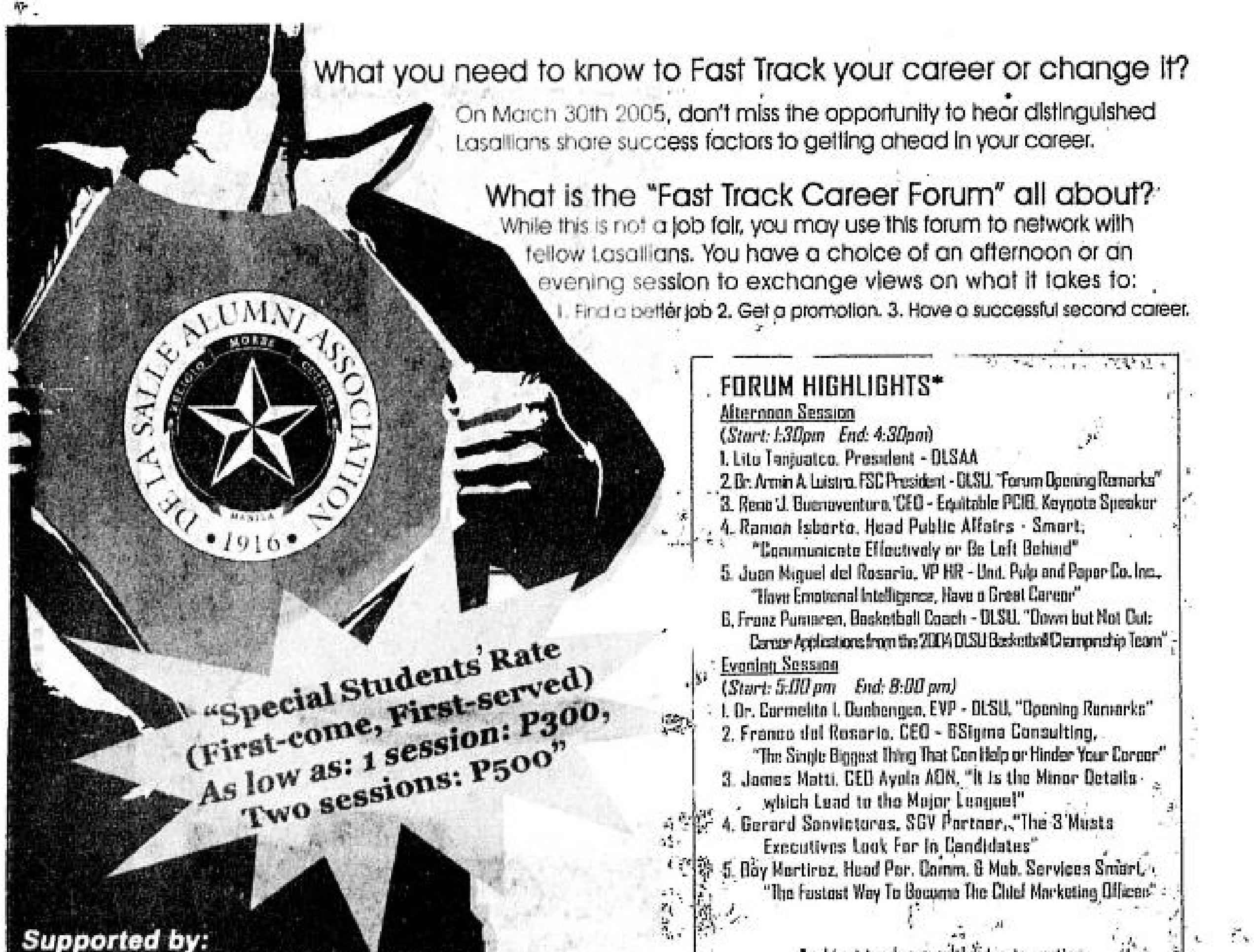
Justin Crandall, director of the Harvard Battle of the Business Plans Contest, noted that this year's contest showed numerous highly competitive teams from among professionals, serial entrepreneurs, MBAs and students. "We were thrilled to have the participation of four outstanding teams from the Philippines under our Global Entrepreneurship Network initiative. Entrepreneurship has the power to change the world and the contestants from the Philippines demonstrated the kind of vision necessary to lead the way. All the Philippine teams demonstrated impressive business acumen, especially the FEU team that won two out of seven awards."

CONCEPCION: Entrepreneurship must be redefined

The four Philippine teams were sent to Boston after topping the Philippine Battle of the Business Plans Contest held last Jan. 11 in Manila. GEN-P's inaugural business plan competition required contestants to focus on business plans serving a global market, and drew over 50 entries from local undergrads, graduate students and professionals. FEU's Board-Tech team bagged first place in the undergrad category, followed by UP's MedLabs team at second place. Medlabs' promising business plan centered on the design and manufacture of low-cost, high quality medical instruments for developing countries and emerging markets. The MedLabs team was represented by John Glenn Kilayko, Romulo Par and Mae Que, and advised by Professor Osmonn Burgos of UP Diliman's School of Engineering.

In the professional category, Tenorio Manila, which has already started, is a globally-focused shoe design and manufacturing business with ambitions to rival designer shoes made in Italy and Brazil. The team was represented by award-winning designer Brian Tenorio, together with Angel Escano and Namee Jorolan. The ICCCL business plan focused on providing training services to quickly bridge the gap between the 40,000 Filipino call center applicants that annually pass the rigorous call center exams, and the industry demand for 140,000 call center service agents. The ICCCL Team was represented by Mennen Aracid, Angeli Lambsdorff, Paul Santos, and Joseph Sta. Ana.

GEN-Philippines will hold the second Battle of the Business Plans this June. Last January's GEN-P contest was sponsored by Chikka, the Entrepreneurship Club of Harvard Business School, and 85 Broads, the global network of women currently and formerly from Goldman Sachs and from 20 of the world's leading MBA programs.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FORUM HIGHLIGHTS*
Afternoon Session
(Start: 1:30pm End: 4:30pm)
1. Lito Tanjuatco, President - DLSAA
2. Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC President - DLSU, "Forum Opening Remarks"
3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB, Keynote Speaker
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart, "Communicate Effectively or Be Left Behind"
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Unl. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc., "Have Emotional Intelligence, Have a Great Career"
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU, "Down but Not Out: Career Applications from the 2004 DLSU Basketball Championship Team"
Evening Session
(Start: 5:00 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU, "Opening Remarks"
2. Franco del Rosario, CEO - 6Sigma Consulting, "The Single Biggest Thing That Can Help or Hinder Your Career"
3. James Matti, CEO Ayala AON, "It is the Minor Details which Lead to the Major League!"
4. Gerard Sanvictores, SGV Partner, "The 3 Musts Executives Look For In Candidates"
5. Boy Martinez, Head Per. Comm. & Mob. Services Smart, "The Fastest Way To Become The Chief Marketing Officer"
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Ex-rebels face another war: Fight for economic survival

FORMER MILF combatants talk about winning the war against poverty PHOTOS BY MIKE YABUT

By Emmaruth Gabriel
Contributor

IN THE upland regions of Tawi-Tawi former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) combatants are laying down their arms to face another form of warfare—a race for economic survival. This time around, instead of bullets, former MNLF combatants use farming as ammunition against poverty.

Upland farmers in Lumbog, municipality of Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi were formerly involved in the revolutionary struggle against the government. After signing the peace agreement, they went back to what they were born to do—till the soil and hope life gives them a chance to live.

But it is not easy. Their P1,500 monthly income from tilling the soil cannot even cover basic needs like feeding their families or provide, at the very least, decent housing and educational opportunities for their children.

No matter how hard they tilled their 2,500-square meter farm of vegetables and fruit trees, they could not increase their farm's yield due to limited farming implements and antiquated monocropping techniques.

For them not to go back to carrying guns, something must be done. An intervention would be most opportune now. They stand on a precipice. If the ex-combatants lose heart and falter, they may take to carrying guns or worse, banditry to survive.

"Peace is still the best solution for Mindanao," harps Eddie Alih. With lives hanging in the frail balance, the entry of New Zealand was the light at the end of their tunnel.

Last year, The New Zealand government funded a farm assistance program where P3 million was plunked in for production, marketing and organizational support for the ex - MNLF combatants.

"The project is designed to re-channel the energies of the former rebels from the armed posture to that of a constructive position. Training and technology transfer through timely assistance become instrumental in instilling their self-worth and esteem," explains Alih.

A one-hectare model farm was thus established not too far away from the Command's camp in the uplands of Tawi-Tawi. There, the ex-MNLF combatants turned farmer-entrepreneurs were taught varied farm technologies and integrated farming systems.

The model farm showed them that more could be grown on the same size of land when integrated farming is applied. The crops were sold locally and the income generated were once again pooled by the community and used as a revolving fund for farm operations.

The 300 pieces of squash recently harvested was perfect proof that the model worked. The ex-MNLF combatants have gotten planting and harvesting cucumbers and bottle gourds down pat. Their menu of vegetables reads like a salad train with beans, sponge gourd, bitter gourd and watermelons as primary products now being sold in markets.

Apart from the farming technology they learned, the ex-MNLF combatants can easily talk on organizational policies, financial credit systems, crop disease prevention, financial control and fund management. They now canvass for the best price quotation from different suppliers before purchasing farm equipment.

"It is just scratching at the edge of a very desperate problem," admits Ambassador Baker. Although the New Zealand government is doing their share of assistance, they know that they are too small to make massive differences in the central government level. " I'm just there because we are genuinely interested about the plight of marginalized people," adds Ambassador Baker.

"We have to be able to change people's attitudes towards development aid. We should not treat them as one project deals," stresses Alih. Filipinos are perceived to be dole out hounds in terms of foreign grant and donations. Alih counters this misconception by proving the ex-MNLF combatants are well worth the risk.

After all, it has been some time since the ex-MNLF combatants reloaded. One main reason for them going down from the uplands of Tawi-Tawi would be to get their farm produce to market.

MNLF Commander Jihid Hambali (left) and Eddie Alih, chancellor of the Mindanao State University in Tawi-Tawi

TAWI-TAWI farmer tries to make the most of his land

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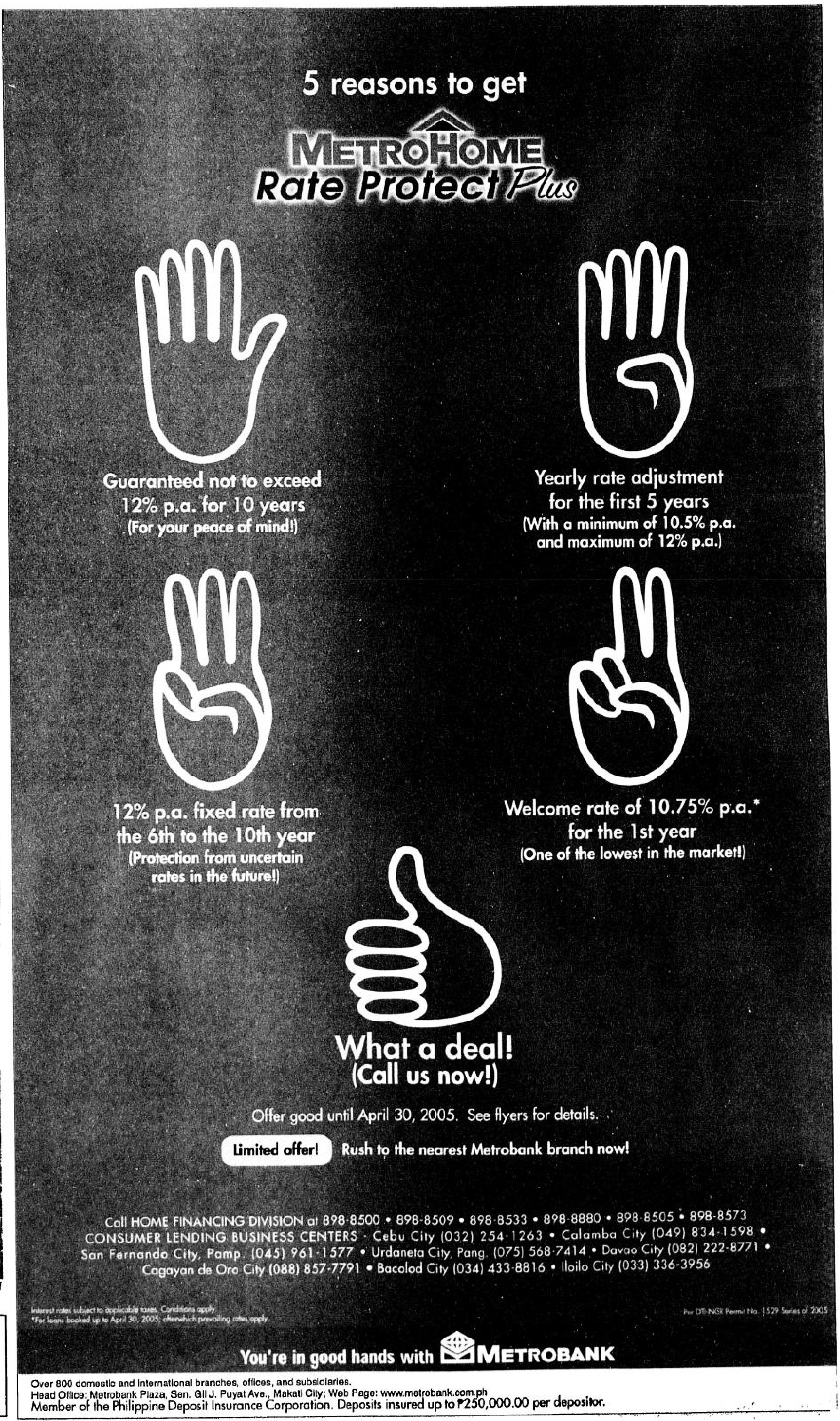

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Digital photography: Changing lives

THE PERCEPTION these days is that if you don't own a digital camera, you're out. But according to Sonny Teves, Fujifilm-YKL marketing and operations manager, this is a fallacy.

"Photography is over and above digital or film. Digital and film are only a means of capture... where you will store the image," Teves explains. "In serious photo magazines, the treatment is if you want to shoot with film, do it. If you want to go digital, go ahead." The issue then is not 'digital versus film' but figuring out how you want to use it.

In the past, major manufacturers developed products based on what they thought the market wanted. But the 80's ushered in an era of consumer research where customers were surveyed and asked what they want and want they need. Teves stresses that those are two different things.

Pinoys get excited over the latest products and because of the rush to digital, many misconceptions are formed. "The downside is that you have people who, because they can afford it, insist on what they want, not on what they need. For instance, you need to shoot a clear 3R photo but you want to buy a 16-megapixel camera. The job will require only about 2 megapixels. What happens to the remaining 14 megapixels? They'll stay unused. So why buy a camera with that capacity?"

Teves shares that it's not easy for manufacturers to develop digital technology on one's own. But trust Fujifilm to break through barriers. By 1980's, Fujifilm was already quietly developing digital photography technology. When the company finally came out with it, Fuji's competition was caught completely off-guard. Case in point: the digital minilab Frontier, known worldwide for its extremely high quality of prints and for its wide variety of digital services. "Fuji was ahead of the whole industry by about three years," he notes. "Majority of the photo finishing market in the world were using our machine. Others had to catch up."

Late last year in Germany, Fujifilm unveiled a newly expanded range of Fine Pix digital camera series to suit a variety of lifestyle and budget needs, including the Fine Pix S3 Pro for those who want the highest possible resolution from their digital SLR. It also introduced the newest generation of the Frontier Series, the Digital Minilab Frontier 570, which promises to deliver the highest-ever processing speed by a Frontier Minilab. The company developed its own technology, its own cameras, printers, film, paper, and other auxiliary products, making Fujifilm "the only photo manufacturer that has everything," says Teves.

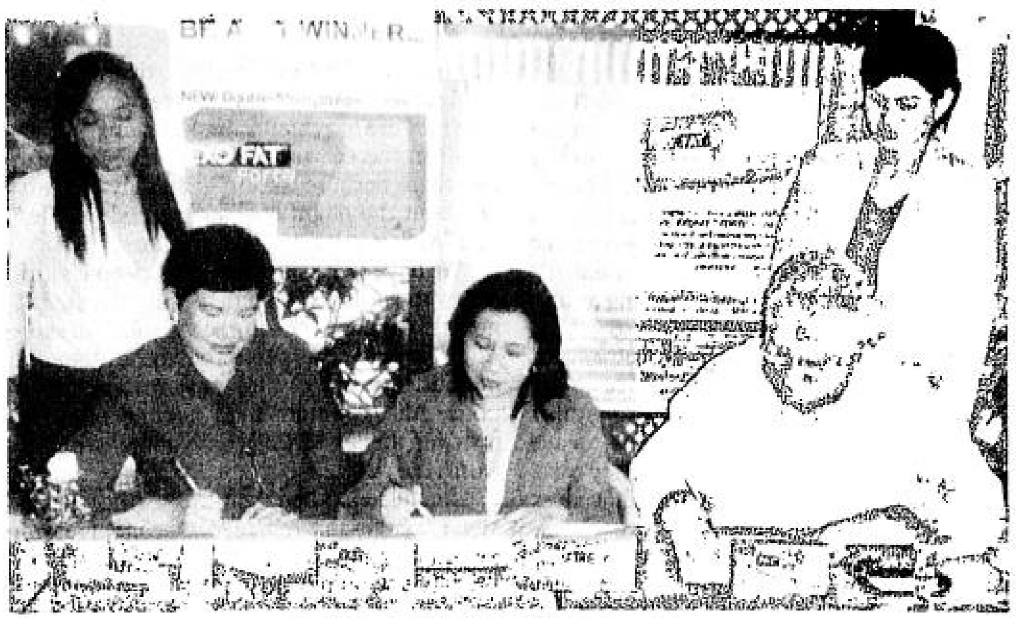
Because of technological advancements, people who have always wanted to be photographers suddenly found it so easy to take pictures. Their confidence level rose because a digital camera now allows them to tell right away if the image is good whereas before, they can't immediately tell if the picture is underexposed. "Confidence more than doubled and the number of photographers more than tripled. Heavy users like wedding photographers and press photographers have switched to digital," he reports.

Nowadays, it's easy to become a wedding photographer: a fresh graduate can borrow P100,000 from his father, use the P40,000 to buy a digital camera and the P60,000 for a computer. Return of investment is amazingly quick -- in 6 months, dad can get his money back.

"The trend is not going to change," Teves continues. "Digital photography is the wave of the future. The technology is very easy to use and is not so hard to understand." While there are those who remain wary of the new technology, more and more people are making the move towards digital photography -- from cellphone cameras to professional digital SLRs.

The task at hand is to break through the mystique of digital technology, try to make it user-friendly and easily available to as many people as possible. For its part, Fujifilm helps educate and serve consumers through tutorials in the Manila Bulletin (with topics that include "high resolution does not mean higher pixels"), photography competitions, seminars, and through reliable services like digital photo printing in centers where a client can make alterations on the image (erase a blemish), and then have her pictures come out in less than a minute.

"Digital technology, I would say, is one of the greatest developments in history. It may sound corny but the only limit is your imagination. Anything that can be reduced to a digital file is affected by the change." Establishments who fail to adapt may go out of business but new trade opportunities will emerge, and Teves believes it's all for the benefit of the consumer.



ROEHR CORP SIGNS CONTRACT WITH BIOLINK PHARMA

Roehr Corp, one of the leading pharma companies in Germany, recently signed a contract with Biolink Pharma, as their exclusive distributor and marketing arm of their Exofat Forte, a weight reducer pill to remove fat upon intake , the healthy way. Shown are Roehr executives Janet Estranero, (left) vice president for sales and marketing and Dr. Dietmar Rummel (right) director of research and development, signing the contract with Biolink general manager Mae Velilla (center). Witnessing the simple signing ceremony are (from left, standing) Biolink's Joyce Lopez, sales manager and Tess Garlitos, business development manager. For inquiries call 411-4448 or 413-5079.

PHILAMLIFE CELEBRATES CHINESE NEW YEAR

The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company (Philamlife) ushered in the Year of the Rooster with momentous festivities at the Philamlife office in Binondo, Manila recently. Highlights of the celebration were the dragon eye-dotting ceremony, colorful Dragon and Lion Dance show, Acrobatic and Kung Fu Show and fireworks display along Quintin Paredes, Binondo. The event was graced by Councilor Letlet Zarcal (3rd from left) as the representative of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Also present were Philamlife EVP and head of sales, marketing and training Rex Mendoza (2nd from left) and VP for segments marketing Melvin Esteban (4th from left). They were joined by Philamlife agents and guests.

BUSINESS LINKS AT BPI EXPRESSLINK NIGHT

BPI's corporate clients gather round for an evening of fun and entertainment at the Mandarin Hotel during the BPI ExpressLink Night. Shown are (from left): Wyeth Consumer Health Care finance director Liza Glodovisa, Metro Drug vice president-finance Janette Jakosalem, Wyeth finance director Elvie Guzman, Metro Drug general manager David Ames, BPI corporate banking's Cedoy Roces, Zuellig Pharma CFO Pocholo dela Cruz, Colgate Palmolive Phils assistant treasurer Donnie Constantino and Metro Drug VP-customer service Bart Nadala.

Araw Values awardee still believes in the Pinoy

J WALTER Thompson Manila should know. It trades in creative ideas and insights to the Pinoy psyche-key elements that helped this ad agency win the only two platinums given at the recent Araw Values Awards.

Studying the Pinoy since the end of World War II, JWT Manila has seen him at his best and worst. It has seen him grapple with many challenges, from post-war devastation, Martial Law, all the way to the latest political and economic upheavals.

But more than his survival, JWT Manila witnessed many of the Pinoy's world-class-no, world-changing-ideas. Its writers couldn't have written ad copy without Parker Quink, or presented their jingles without some help from the Sing-along System (now known as the karaoke).

In 2003, these and other Pinoy big ideas led JWT's ad campaign for the 18th Philippine Ad Congress. Aired at a time of low consumer confidence, the TV, print and radio ads inspired people with some of our almost-forgotten but revolutionary inventions.

In addition to Parker Quink, the karaoke and the Apollo Lunar Rover, now everyone knows about the origins of the yoyo, miracle rice and the touch-tone phone. And who else still doubts that the Pinoy can still come out on top?

Surely, no one at JWT Manila. Especially when its big ideas won metals from the Ad Congress, the Creative Guild Ad of the Year and of course, the Araw Values Awards. JWT's latest victory is especially sweet. To be judged as the most creative and the most socially relevant campaign of the last two years is ultimate praise.

"It couldn't have happened if we hadn't known about all these wonderful Pinoy ideas," says Cynthia Dayco, a creative director at JWT. Under the stewardship of the legendary Robert Labayen, she and her crack team of writers, art directors and producers created the campaign.

"We are constantly awed by Pinoy genius. It truly is in our blood. We just have to remember and believe... that if our minds created such wonders, then we can do it again."

And again and again.

MARKETING IN
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CREATIVE AND WISE LEANING

In celebration of its 10th year of educational presence in the country, the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles (CLTS) Philippines recently conducted its annual national conference on 'Winning Ideas and Strategies in Education' with the theme: Creative Marketing in Education, held at the AIM Conference Center in Baguio, Igorot Lodge, Camp John Hay. Photo shows CLTS president Henry Tenedero (standing, 6th from left) with some of the participants composed of school administrators, three city mayors and classroom teachers. CLTS is at the forefront of advocating learning styles, emotional and multiple intelligence aimed to enhance the classroom environment.

Experience Grand Wega

SONY recently introduced to the market its newest projection television that will surely change the way you see things. Grand Wega is the latest addition to Sony's roster of picture perfect projection TVs. Employing the combined ingenuity of cutting-edge megapixel H-LCD technology and the exclusive Wega engine, Sony's new Grand Wega, a micro-display rear projection TV, produces impeccable picture quality and brings home a close-to-theatrical experience. It boasts of giving you a total quality entertainment. Wega engine has a unique intelligent picture enhancement technology. Choose from 42-inch, 50-inch, and 60-inch screens, Grand Wega features a slim line, futuristic design and perfect viewing from wide angles, truly revolutionary technologies in rear projection televisions. Wega Engine delivers the most realistic picture of flat panel displays with four clear benefits: less noise, better resolution, more reality, and higher contrast. The best thing about Sony Grand Wega is its memory stick capability. It can be used in the Handycam, Cybershot digital camera, cellphone P900, and on the Grand Wega. It also allows users to view JPEG images and MPEG-1 movies directly on the TV screen. The Sony Wega range of televisions epitomizes the flat-screen televisions of the digital era. Characterized by sleek designs and advanced visual technologies, Wega televisions deliver exceptional picture quality for the ultimate viewing experience. With an extensive lineup of small- and larg-screen color televisions, projection televisions, plasma and liquid-crystal-display (LCD) televisions, there is Wega to suit any space, budget, and lifestyle.

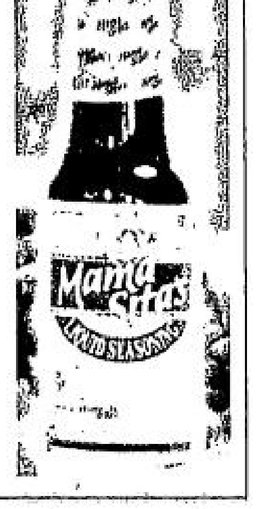
PNB GIVES AID TO TYPHOON VICTIMS

The Philippine National Bank recently conducted the 'Pagkakaisa ng Bayan' relief goods distribution drive in Gapan and Bongabon, Nueva Ecija where thousands were displaced in two of the areas hardest hit by four typhoons last year. PNB Cabanatuan business manager Emmanuel Javier (bending, foreground) was one of the many PNB volunteers who assisted in distributing canned goods, household items, clothing and blankets in a relief goods distribution campaign that benefited more than 700 families in Nueva Ecija.

Product FILES

Mama Sita's liquid seasoning

AT MARINA Oyster Bar in Timog Quezon City, seasoned chef Noel Ramos made a cooking demo of simple dishes whose flavors were greatly enhanced by Mama Sita's new liquid seasoning. Fried bean curd in liquid seasoning and beef brisket stew with sesame seeds never tasted that good. Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning is the perfect partner in every meal. Just a few drops of the seasoning are enough to perk up even the most ordinary viand. Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning can also be used as a wonderful dip for fried foods and marinade for barbecue preparations. Best of all, the new liquid seasoning from the pioneer in Philippine food mixes is free from 3MCPD, a cancer-casuling chemical present in most soya-based products. At only P23 for a bottle of 150 ml, Mama Sita's Liquid Seasoning is also within your budget.



MEDICAL, DENTAL MISSION IN BULACAN

Vice President Noli 'Kabayan' De Castro happily watches while a patient is being attended to, by a medical team during the recent medical and dental mission spearheaded by the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) at the Towerville relocation site in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. Towerville is an NHA project that is home to some 4,000 families, including 400 who were recently relocated from the Malabon alignment of Northrail project.

RP needs to discover its treasure of organic goods

By Amy R. Remo

ORGANIC products can combat disease and give you a healthier body, more radiant skin and lustrous hair. At least that's what the fans of organic products claim.

But while health buffs worldwide are all abuzz about these miraculous wonders, a lot of Filipinos remain skeptical.

It's ironic as the Philippines, with its rich natural resources, has a huge capacity to produce organic products such as virgin coconut oil, *arengga* vinegar and coffee alamid from palm civets.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a small market for these products in the country. Thus, very few farmers engage in organic farming.

According to Chit U. Juan, director of Figaro Foundation Corp., not too many Filipinos realize that we can corner the organics value-added niche in the international market.

"Organic farming not only plays a role in poverty alleviation as it encourages our farmers to continue tilling lands, but it can also protect their health from harmful pesticides," says Juan.

Add the fact that organic products are not only beneficial to one's health, but it is also environment-friendly.

Organic products are grown without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, organic fertilizers and botanical sprays extracted from plants are used.

Slow Response

Filipinos, however, are a little slow in the uptake when it comes to organic products.

Jing C. Reyes, owner of Manila Herbal & Essential Oils Co., says she feels this strain as well.

"From the time we launched Thera Virgin Coconut Oil in 2002, there has been a very, very slow response from Filipinos. Most of them are dubious and hesitant to try our products," says Jing.

"The biggest question among Filipinos is, 'Are we telling the truth?' Some are still not ready to accept these products," adds Jing.

Although it was not the first to produce it, Manila Herbal is said to be the first to push virgin coconut oil in the local market through the First National Coco Festival held in 2002 at SM Megamall in Ortigas.

Aside from its bestseller virgin coconut oil, Manila Herbal also produces coconut dietary fiber (under the brands Fiber-Dyn and Sungee Coconut Flour), hair care products and essential oils such as citronella, patchouli, *ilang-ilang* and lemon grass. It even has Buzz Off, an organic insect repellant.

Although Manila Herbal can produce as much as 100,000 liters of virgin coconut oil in a month, it only produces a little more than 30,000 liters due to low local demand.

To date, Manila Herbal concentrates on bulk orders, supplying local exporters, spas, health clinics and institutional buyers, as well as *albularyos* (traditional healers)—one of Manila Herbal's biggest clients, according to Jing.

She has not, however, delved into exporting.

"I want to push these products in the Philippine market—these are *sariling atin*. We should be the first ones to benefit from them," explains Jing.

She says that starting last year, there has been a slow, steady increase in the patronage of organic products. A lot of write ups had been made as well about the benefits of organic products, mainly the virgin coconut oil, and thus, winning over many Filipinos.

"Sales are starting to pick up locally, but the Philippine market is still young compared to other countries," says Jing.

VIE REYES with some of Bote Central's bestsellers—Coffee Alamid and Arengga vinegar

PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

CHIT Juan

Lack of exposure

For Vie C. Reyes, manager of Bote Central Inc. which produces the famed Arengga Organic Vinegar and Coffee Alamid, another problem is lack of exposure and information dissemination.

Since these are fairly new products, a complete marketing and advertising package should do the trick.

"The problem is, we don't have a budget for marketing and advertising like big multinational companies," says Vie.

Vie adds that her first attempts to put their products on supermarket shelves did not go as well as it did when she exported organic vinegar to the US and Asian and European countries. Barely matched it, in fact.

For local growers like Jing and Vie, they have to rely on word-of-mouth for their products—at least here in the Philippines.

Making waves abroad

Worldwide though, Vie and Jing's products have been making waves in international trade and food fairs, as well as in the United States, Japan and European countries.

Just last October 2003, Bote Central's Organic Arengga Vinegar was recognized in the Anuga Fine Food fair, one of the most important trade fairs for the world of food and beverages. It is a biannual event held in Cologne, Germany.

Arengga vinegar was recognized in the Taste Zero Three event in Fine Food category—one from 100 products that were chosen from among 6,000 products submitted from different parts of the world.

To date, Bote Central produces about 4,000 liters of Arengga Vinegar a month but Vie says they plan to increase their production soon.

Bote Central Inc., the company that developed the world's first and only sugar palm vinegar, also produces sugar palm syrup and coffee alamid from palm civets.

Although it has started production only in October 2003, Coffee Alamid took the international market by storm and can now be considered at par with the famed Kopiluwak, the Indonesian civet coffee. It has also been featured by CNN and The National Geographic.

Coffee alamid comes from the poop of endangered *alamid* or *musang* (palm civets), which eats sweet cherry coffee.

A *"manlilimot"* collects these poops, which Bote Central would buy and process into coffee. The company, of course, has ways to check the authenticity of the poops sold to them. One season can yield as much as 20 kilos of coffee.

To date, Coffee Alamid sells for P6,000 a kilo and is available at Bag of Beans but with limited stock.

Government efforts

Seeing the huge potential of organic farming, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions has been fully supporting organic farmers and growers with their endeavors.

Citem estimates the country's earnings from organic and natural product exports to grow tenfold to $450 million this year, from $45.9 million in the first 10 months of 2004.

Last year, exports of organic products included *muscovado* sugar, green *balangon* (bananas), banana chips, coconut cooking oil, dessicated coconut, coconut chips, virgin coconut oil and dried *banaba* leaves. Major export destinations were Japan, Europe, United States, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Korea and China.

"We hope that more producers would shift to organic farming," says Citem executive director Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes. "We also urge existing organic food producers to get into the export business because there is a huge, untapped market for their products both here and abroad."

Citem says the consumers' growing awareness on healthier eating habits, food safety and the ongoing debate on genetically modified organisms nurtured the growing demand for organic food.

Add to that, Citem is optimistic that local organic growers can corner a bigger chunk of the $21-billion-a-year global market for organics, which is expected to grow to $100 billion in 2008.

Unfortunately, of the 11.8 million hectares of agricultural lands, only 0.02 percent is devoted to organic farming. Citem hopes this will increase by at least one percent in 2010.

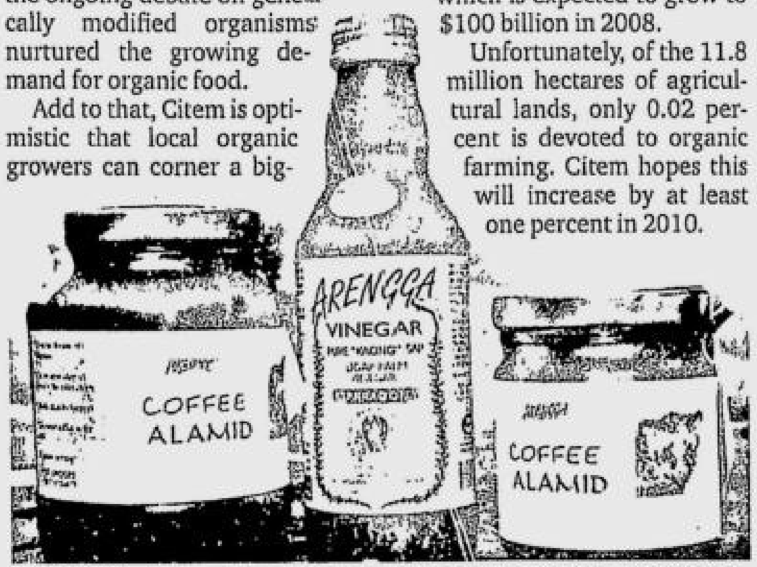
Other organizations and agencies have also noticed the potential of and have taken interest in organic farming.

Last year, agricultural credit provider Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp. and the Philippine Development Assistance Programme Inc. launched Credit Window Program, which is aimed at providing regular credit and other support mechanisms to improve organic rice farmers' productivity.

The program also aims to make shifting to organic farming easier for farmers.

Aside from holding local trade fairs, the government's agenda for the sector includes shifting to organic agricultural practices; strengthening the certification of organic products; sustaining the local and international market, and increasing areas of plantation.

LOCALLY-PRODUCED organic products have been making huge waves in the international market—but not as much in their own country.


ARENGGA vinegar has earned one of the most coveted recognitions from Germany's Anuga Fine Food fair.

InterAsia Bank moves forward.

New look. New energy. New owners.

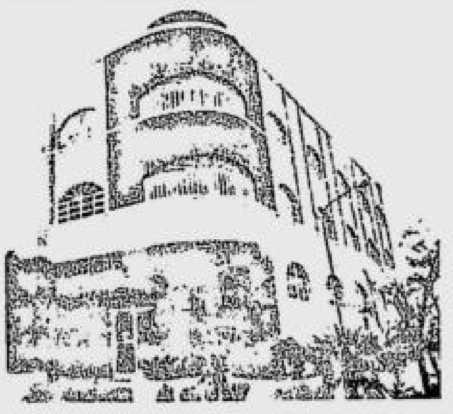
Tagaytay City's only homegrown private development bank with a global outlook has just made its first major renovation since it opened for business eight years ago.

The bank's head office now sports a new look on the outside as well as on the inside. We have remodeled the facade and spruced up the building with attractive, pleasing colors.

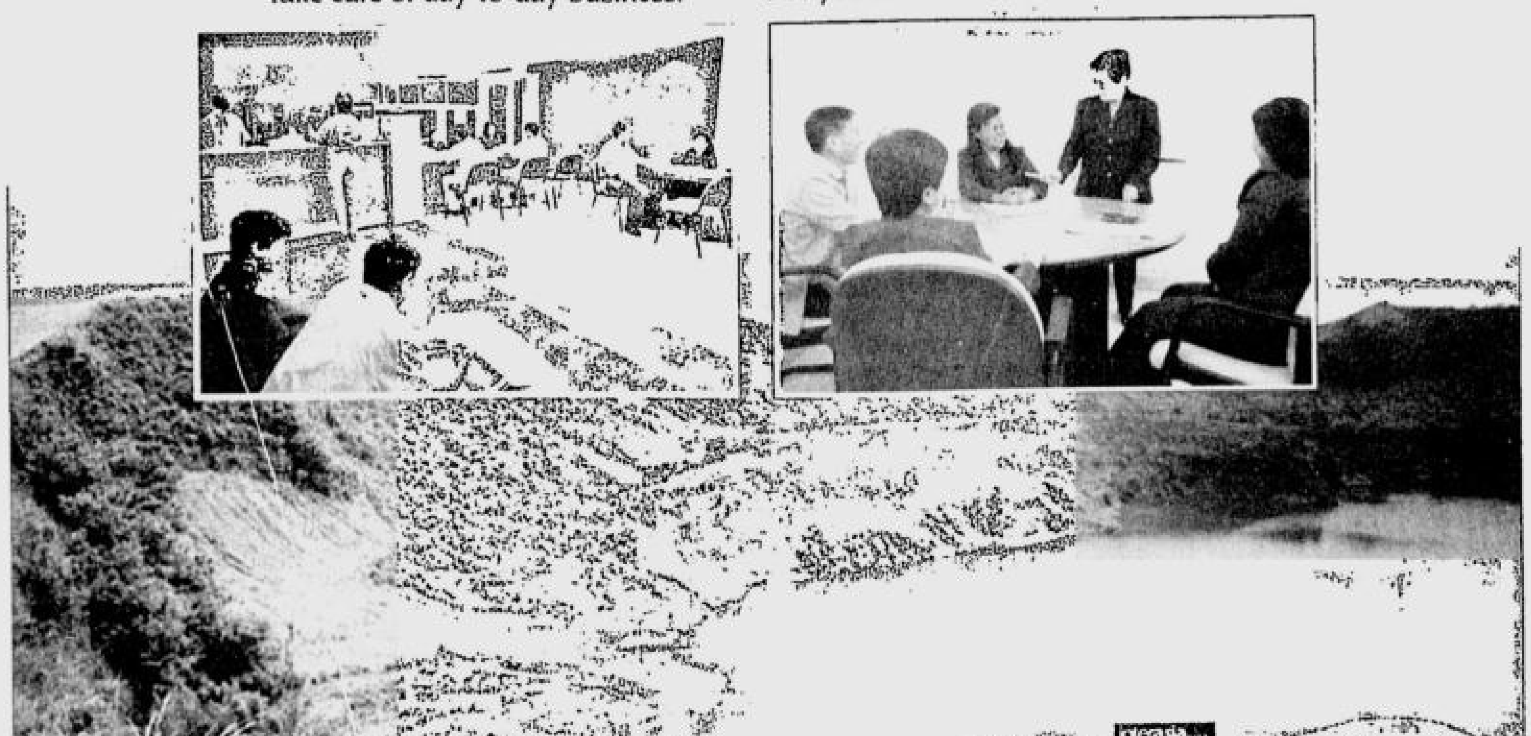
We have totally made-over the interiors as well—making them more spacious, better-lighted and customer-friendly.

These changes have come about with the takeover of the bank by its new owners. A new Management team has also been put in place. This new team has started to expand and upgrade our staff to take care of day-to-day business.

And it is soon coming out with new products and services to meet our clients' varied needs.



If you have not been to the bank lately, we invite you to visit us. We'd be very happy to show you around. And maybe you'd like to meet some of our key people too. See you soon.



HEAD OFFICE: InterAsia Bank Building, J.P. Rizal Ave., Corner Mahogany St. Tagaytay City • Tel. No: (046) 413-2810 • (046) 413-2528 / 29 • Tel.fax (046) 413-2811
BRANCH: Tolentino Public Market, Tagaytay City • Tel. No. (046) 413-031

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
MANILA

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTERS PURSUANT TO SECTION 7 OF R.A. 9189 AND AMENDING PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF COMELEC RESOLUTION NO. 6117.

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel A. Jr.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 18 March 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7447

WHEREAS, the first paragraph of Section 7 of R.A. 9189 provides:

> **Sec. 7. System of Continuing Registration.** – The Commission shall ensure that the benefits of the system of continuing registration are extended to qualified overseas absentee voters.

WHEREAS, the next National Elections involving overseas absentee voters shall be held on the second Monday of May 2007, hence, continuing registration overseas should commence at the soonest possible time;

WHEREAS, there is an imperative need to conduct continuing registration at the Posts and in other area/s outside the Posts for a longer period in order to allow a greater number of qualified overseas Filipinos to register, and for the Commission to be given ample time to prepare the Certified List of Overseas Absentee Voters (CLOAV) for purposes of the 2007 National and Local Elections;

WHEREAS, observations and experiences of the Commission and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), in the first implementation of R.A. 9189, showed that some provisions of the law are not relevant and practical in the conduct of overseas absentee registration and that there are more efficient and less costly processes that may be adopted by the Commission consistent with the spirit and intent of R.A. 9189 without sacrificing the integrity of the exercise;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize basic reforms in the conduct and processing of overseas absentee registration to avoid delays, huge expenditures, and other human errors;

WHEREAS, early issuance of the general instructions for the continuing registration of qualified overseas voters is essential to ensure sufficient information dissemination and voters' education campaign that the Commission and the DFA shall undertake.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the authority vested in it under the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189, showed that some provisions of the law are not relevant and practical and in the conduct of overseas absentee registration and that there are more efficient and less costly processes that may be adopted by the Commission consistent with the spirit and intent of R.A. 9189 without sacrificing the integrity of the exercise;

WHEREAS, there is a need to institutionalize basic reforms in the conduct and processing of overseas absentee registration to avoid delays, huge expenditures, and other human errors;

WHEREAS, early issuance of the general instructions for the continuing registration of qualified overseas voters is essential to ensure sufficient information dissemination and voters' education campaign that the Commission and the DFA shall undertake.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Commission on Elections, pursuant to the authority vested in it under the Constitution, Republic Act No. 9189, and other election laws, RESOLVED, as it hereby RESOLVES to promulgate, the following General Instructions for the Resumption of Registration of Qualified Overseas Absentee Voters from 1 October 2005 to 31 August 2006.

PART I
APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION/CERTIFICATION AS OVERSEAS ABSENTEE VOTER

Section 1. Declaration of policy. – It is the policy of the Commission to establish a clean, complete and accurate list of overseas absentee voters through the adoption of biometrics technology in the registration process at all Posts and in specifically designated area/s outside the Posts.

Section 2. Meaning of words. – As used in this General Instructions:

a) Application for Registration/Certification As Overseas Absentee Voter and Application To Vote In Absentia (OAVF No. 1) refers to the application form prescribed by the Commission to be accomplished by an overseas absentee voter for: (1) registration as an overseas absentee voter and to vote *in absentia* if he is not yet a registered voter under Republic Act No. 8189 otherwise known as "The Voters Registration Act of 1996"; or (2) certification as overseas absentee voter and to vote *in absentia* if he is already registered under the said Act;

b) Certified List of Overseas Absentee Voters (CLOAV) refers to the list, as approved by the Commission in an En Banc resolution, of registered overseas absentee voters whose applications to vote *in absentia* have been approved and prepared by the Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting on a country by country basis;

c) Commission refers to the Commission on Elections;

d) Committee on Overseas Absentee Voting (COAV) refers to the Committee of the Commission created under Republic Act No. 9189, otherwise known as "The Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003" tasked to oversee and supervise the effective implementation of the Overseas Absentee Voting Law;

e) Day of Election refers to the actual date of the elections in the Philippines;

f) DFA-Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat (DFA-OAVS) refers to the Secretariat based at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) home office to direct, coordinate and oversee the Department's participation in the implementation of the Overseas Absentee Voting Law (OAVL);

g) Education and Information Department (EID) refers to the Department of the Commission tasked with dissemination of information and with the conduct of voter's education campaigns relative to the conduct of all electoral exercises administered by the Commission on Elections.

h) Election Officer (EO) refers to the highest official or authorized representative of the Commission in a city or municipality in the Philippines;

i) Election Registration Board (ERB) refers to the body constituted under Republic Act No. 8189, to act on all applications for registration in the Philippines;

j) Field registration shall refer to the conduct of registration at predetermined location, outside the Posts for a limited period upon favorable recommendation of the DFA-Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat (DFA-OAVS) and approval of the Chairman of the COAV based on the guidelines prescribed hereunder;

k) Information Technology Department (ITD) refers to the Department that provides services for all information technology concerns and computing solutions to requirements of the Commission;

l) Mobile registration shall refer to the conduct of registration at various locations outside the Posts and which shall be undertaken as part of the Posts' outreach activities to Filipinos within their consular jurisdictions.

m) Municipal / City / District Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters (ROAV) refers to the consolidated list prepared, approved and maintained by the Commission, for every municipal / city / district, of overseas absentee voters whose applications for registration as such, including those registered voters under Republic Act No. 8189, who applied for certification as overseas absentee voters, have been approved by the Election Registration Board;

n) National Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters (NROAV) refers to the consolidated list prepared, approved and maintained by the Commission, of overseas absentee voters whose applications for registration as absentee voters, including those registered voters under Republic Act No. 8189, who applied for certification as overseas absentee voters, have been approved by the Resident Election Registration Board (RERB). The NROAV shall indicate the Post where the overseas absentee voter is registered;

o) Overseas Absentee Voter refers to a citizen of the Philippines who is qualified to register and vote under the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003, not otherwise disqualified by law, who is abroad on the day of the elections;

p) Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) refers to the process by which qualified citizens of the Philippines abroad exercise their right to vote;

q) Overseas Absentee Voting Book of Voters refers to the compilation of all Overseas Absentee Voter Registration Records in a country or in a smaller unit in a given country;

r) Overseas Absentee Voter Registration Record (OAVRR) refers to a machine-generated document showing the name, photograph, signature, fingerprints and other personal circumstances of a registered overseas absentee voter issued by the Commission upon approval of said voter's application for registration as overseas absentee voter;

s) Posts shall refer to the Philippine embassies, consulates, foreign service establishments and other Philippine government agencies maintaining offices abroad having consular jurisdiction over the places where the overseas absentee voters temporarily reside;

t) Registered Voters Absentee Voter refers to one whose application for registration or for certification as absentee voter has been approved by the Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) under the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003 and these Rules;

u) Representative of the Commission refers to the officials and employees of the foreign service corps or the Posts, including the Filipino contractual employees that the embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments may locally hire at the host country, deputized by the Commission pursuant to the Overseas Absentee Act of 2003 and these Rules;

v) Resident Election Registration Board (RERB) shall refer to the in-house Election Registration Board (RERB) of the COAV composed of three (3) ranking officials of the Commission, the main functions of which are to process, approve, or disapprove the application forms for registration or certification as overseas absentee voter; and,

w) Seafarers refer to the ship officers and ratings manning ships, including offshore workers, service providers and fishermen, as defined in the Revised Rules on the Issuance of Seafarer's Identification and Record Book of the Maritime Industry Authority.

Section 3. Publication and posting of notice of registration and election. – The Commission, through the Posts, shall, not later than 5 April 2005, publish at wide circulation in countries with not less than 5,000 Filipinos, a notice of the place, date and time of the resumption of the continuing registration and the requirements for the participation of qualified Filipino citizens abroad as well as the place, date and time of the 2007 National Elections.

In addition, the Commission and the DFA shall post the said notice of registration and election in their respective websites.

Towards this end, the COAV shall, in coordination with the EID of the Commission and the DFA-OAVS, develop information and education materials on overseas absentee registration and voting.

Section 4. Period to File Applications. – All applications for registration / certification as overseas absentee voter and the application to vote *in absentia* shall be filed from 1 October 2005 up to 31 August 2006 with five (5) days each week for the duration of the registration period.

The need to conduct field and mobile registration, and the dates thereof, including the five (5) specific days of each week during the registration period, shall be determined by the Posts. The DFA-OAVS shall make its recommendation thereon to the Chairman of the COAV for his appropriate action.

Section 5. Time and Filing of Applications. Applications for registration/ certification as overseas absentee voter shall be filed before the authorized representatives of the Commission at the Posts which have consular jurisdiction over the places where the registrants temporarily reside or in specifically designated field or mobile registration areas outside the Posts.

Filing at the Posts should be done only during designated hours of the five (5) days mentioned in Section 4 hereof.

Filing of applications for registration / certification may also be authorized by the COAV at a designated place in the Philippines prior to the applicant's departure.

Section 6. Who May Register – All citizens of the Philippines abroad who are at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of elections and not otherwise disqualified by law may register.

Section 7. Who May Not Register – The following shall be disqualified from registering:

a. Those who have lost their Filipino citizenship in accordance with Philippine laws;
b. Those who have expressly renounced their Philippine citizenship and who have pledged allegiance to a foreign country; except those who have reacquired or retained their Philippine citizenship under R.A. 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003";
c. Those who have committed and are convicted in a final judgment by a court or tribunal of an offense punishable by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year, including those who have committed and been found guilty of Disloyalty as defined under Article 137 of the Revised Penal Code, such disability not having been removed by plenary pardon or amnesty;
    1. Provided, however, That any person disqualified to register under this subsection shall automatically acquire the right to register upon expiration of five (5) years after service of sentence; and,
    2. Provided, further, That the Commission may take cognizance of final judgments issued by foreign courts or tribunals only on the basis of reciprocity and subject to the formalities and processes prescribed by the Rules of Court on execution of judgments;
d. Any citizen of the Philippines abroad previously declared insane or incompetent by competent authority in the Philippines or abroad, as verified by the Philippine embassies, consulates or foreign service establishments concerned, unless such competent authority subsequently certifies that such person is no longer insane or incompetent; and
e. An immigrant or a permanent resident who is recognized as such in the host country, unless he executes upon filing of an application for registration as overseas absentee voter, an affidavit declaring that:
    1. He shall resume actual physical permanent residence in the Philippines pursuant to Section 5 of R.A. 9189; and,
    2. He has not applied for citizenship in another country.

Section 8. Requirements for Registration / Certification. – Every applicant shall be required to furnish the following documents:

a. *A valid Philippine passport.* In the absence of a valid passport, a certification of the DFA that it has reviewed the appropriate documents submitted by the applicant and found them sufficient to warrant the issuance of a passport, or that the applicant is a holder of a valid passport but is unable to produce the same for a valid reason;
b. *Accomplished OAVF No. 1* (Annex A) *prescribed by the Commission;*
c. In case of seafarers, a photocopy of his *Seaman's Book* or any other document that will prove that he is a seafarer; and,
d. In case of applicants who availed of R.A. 9225, otherwise known as the "Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003", the original or certified true copy of the *Order of Approval* of his application to retain or reacquire his Filipino citizenship issued by the Post or the Bureau of Immigration;

The Commission may require additional data to establish the identity and qualification of the applicant.

Section 9. Registration / Certification Procedures. – a. The applicant shall:

1. Personally appear at the Post that has consular jurisdiction over the locality where he temporarily resides;
2. Accomplish OAVF No. 1;
3. Submit the supporting documents mentioned in Section 8 hereof; and
4. Submit himself to biometrics capture.

In case the applicant chooses to download OAVF No. 1 from the websites of the Commission, DFA, OAVS and the Posts, he has to file the accomplished OAVF No. 1 and submit himself for the live capture of his biometric data at the Post which has consular jurisdiction over the place where he temporarily resides. Submission to live capture of biometrics may be done at the applicant's convenient time but within the OAV registration period. If applicant does not submit himself for the live capture of his biometrics his application shall be deemed not filed.

In the case of a seafarer, he may file his application personally at any Post, indicating in his application form the specific address where he wants his ballot to be sent. He shall likewise submit himself for live capture of his biometrics.

b. The Post shall:

1. Determine the identity of the applicant by verifying the passport or such other documents that may sufficiently establish his identity;
2. Verify whether the applicant's name is already included in the 2004 National Registry of Absentee Voters (NROAV):
    a. *Applicant's name is not yet included.* Issue OAVF No. 1 to applicant for him to accomplish.
    b. *Applicant's name is already included in the Post and his biometrics has been captured.* Advise applicant that he need not register anew.
    c. *Applicant's name is already included in the Post but his biometrics has not been captured.* Issue OAVF No. 1 to applicant and write on the appropriate space the Application Number previously assigned to him as appearing in the NROAV.
    d. *Applicant's name is already included in another Post and his biometrics has been captured.* Advise applicant that he need not register anew, and require him to accomplish OAVF No. 1B (Annex B) in accordance with Section 19 hereunder.
    e. *Applicant's name is already included in another Post but without biometrics.* Advise applicant to accomplish OAVF No. 1B in accordance with Section 19 hereunder. Issue OAVF No. 1 to applicant and write on the appropriate space the Application Number previously assigned to him as appearing in the NROAV.
3. Ensure that the OAVF No. 1 issued to the applicant has been accomplished legibly, accurately and completely;
4. Direct the applicant to the Data Capturing Machine (DCM) operator who shall:
    a. Affix the Application Form Number sticker, consisting of sixteen (16) digits on the upper-right hand portion of the accomplished OAVF No. 1 of new applicants for registration/certification. If an application form number is already written in the application form, an application form number sticker shall not be affixed;
    b. Encode the demographics required by the Data Capturing System (DCS);
    c. Capture the applicant's biometric data;
    d. Affix initials under the space provided for the signature of the Administering Officer, found in Part 2 of OAVF No. 1;
    e. Return the initiated OAVF No. 1 to the applicant and direct him to proceed to the Administering Officer, who shall:
        i. Administer the Oath found in Part 2 of OAVF No. 1 if properly initiated by the DCM operator. The absence of the initials of the DCM operator shall be construed as applicant's failure to submit himself to live capture of his biometrics. In such case, he shall be directed to return to the Data Capturing station for biometrics capture;
        ii. Return the accomplished OAVF No. 1 to the corresponding DCM operator for completion of the encoding.
    f. Complete the encoding of all fields indicated in all accomplished OAVF No. 1;
    g. Arrange and compile all the received accomplished OAVF No. 1 for the day;
    h. Store all the captured data in a CD;
    i. Finalize/close the CD every 15th and end of the month, except for the last three (3) months of registration where it shall be finalized / closed every Monday; and
    j. Transmit to the COAV the finalized CDs together with all received accomplished OAVF No. 1 and OAVF No. 1B, as the case may be, every 15th and end of the month, except for the last three (3) months of registration where the finalized CD and accomplished OAVF No. 1 shall be transmitted every Monday covered by OAVF No. 1A.

    In case of defective or non-availability of the DCM the Post shall:
        i. Advise the applicant that he still has to submit himself to live biometrics capture;
        ii. Require applicant to affix his right thumbprint on the available space between the boxes for the Date and the Signature of the Applicant on Part II of OAVF No. 1;
        iii. Require applicant to attach his photograph to OAVF No. 1 or in the absence thereof, a photocopy of any valid identification document bearing his photograph; and,
        iv. Accomplish OAVF No. 1C (Annex D) that on the day of the filing of said application, the DCM was defective or not available and attach the same to the application.

C. The COAV shall:

1. Record and compile the reports of all CDs and accomplished OAVF No. 1 received from the Posts;
2. Process all applications and prepare the appropriate report after determining:
    a. Multiple registrants, in case of applications for registration; and
    b. The fact of registration in case of applications for certification.
3. Forward to the RERB for its appropriate action all processed OAVF No. 1 together with the report required above;
4. After each RERB hearing, obtain from the RERB all applications acted upon by it, and on the basis thereof, update the content of the CDs received from the Posts;
5. Create a new CD containing the updated information; and,
6. Endorse the CD containing the updated information to the Information Technology Department (ITD) of the Commission for the printing of the Overseas Absentee Voter's Registration Record (OAVVRR) and the voters' IDs.

Section 10. Duties and Functions of the RERB. – The RERB shall have the following duties and functions:

1. Post at the office of the COAV, and in its website, the names of the applicants and the dates when their applications shall be heard, as well as the place where the RERB will hold its hearing;
2. Notify all political parties and other parties concerned of the pending applications for registration through a weekly updated publication in the website of the Commission. The COAV shall be utilized to effect said notification;
3. Act on all applications received from the Posts;
4. Notify all applicants whose applications have been disapproved, stating the reasons for such disapproval; and
5. Prepare a list of all approved applications during each hearing and post the same at the bulletin board of the Commission, at the office of the COAV, and on the website of the Commission.

Information above-cited shall be made available to the DFA-OAVS for posting at its own website.

The COAV Chairman may constitute as many additional RERBs as may be necessary to ensure that all applications are acted upon within the period prescribed herein.

Section 11. Procedures Before the RERB. –

A. Applications for Registration:

1) Upon receipt of the applications, the Chairman of the RERB shall immediately:
    a) Set the applications for hearing in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 12 herein;
    b) Prepare the Notice of Hearing thereof;
    c) Post the Notice of Hearing as provided in Section 10 (1) herein at least one (1) week before the date of the hearing;
    d) Notify all political parties and other parties concerned of the pending applications for registration through a weekly updated publication in the websites of the Commission and the DFA. The COAV shall be utilized to effect said notification;
    e) Determine whether the applicant possesses all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications for registration. If the applicant meets all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications for registration, the RERB shall approve the application. If not, the RERB shall disapprove the application.

2) Any interested party may file a verified objection to the application on or before the date set for the hearing of the said application.

If an objection is filed, the Chairman of the RERB shall immediately notify the applicant or his authorized representative of the said objection personally or by registered mail, together with copies of the objection and the documents submitted in support thereof, if any. The applicant or his authorized representative shall, within five (5) days from receipt of the copy of the objection, file by registered mail an Answer that clearly states his defenses and is duly sworn before any officer authorized to administer oath.

For this purpose, the date postmarked in the envelope containing the Answer shall be considered as the date of the filing, provided that answers to objections to applications filed from 1 to 31 August 2006, shall be received by the RERB not later than 19 October 2006.

If no objection is filed or once the answer is filed, or upon the lapse of the period for filing an answer, the Chairman of the RERB shall immediately forward the application to the RERB for decision.

3) Within three (3) days from the disapproval of the application, the RERB shall send a notice thereof to the applicant or his authorized representative by registered mail, stating the reason therefor. In addition, the RERB shall, on the day following the action taken on the applications, post the list of the names of those whose applications have been approved at the Office of the COAV, and in the websites of the Commission and DFA.

4) Upon approval of the applications, the RERB shall direct the Information Technology Department (ITD) of the Commission to include the names of the applicants with approved applications in the NROAV.

B. Applications for Certification

1) Upon receipt of the applications, the Chairman of the RERB shall immediately:
    a) Notify all political parties and other parties concerned of the pending applications for certification through a weekly updated publication in the websites of the Commission and the DFA. The COAV shall be utilized to effect said notification.
    b) Verify whether the applicant is a registered voter from the records of the ITD of the Commission.
    c) If the applicant is a registered voter, the RERB shall approve the application for certification. If not, the RERB shall treat the application for certification as an application for registration.

2) On the day following the action taken on the applications, the Chairman of the RERB shall post the list of the names of those whose applications have been approved at the Office of the COAV, and in the websites of the Commission and DFA.

In addition, the RERB shall, within three (3) days from disapproval of the application, send a notice thereof to the applicant or his authorized representative by registered mail, stating the reason therefor.

3) In case of approval of the application, the RERB shall:

a. direct the Election Officer (EO) concerned to make an annotation in the Computerized Voters' List (CVL) of the city/municipality and in the applicant's VRR that the said applicant has been registered as an Overseas Absentee Voter or will be voting as an Overseas Absentee Voter; and
b. Include the names of the applicants with approved applications in the NROAV and in the CLOAV.

Section 12. Hearings of Applications. – The RERB shall hear the applications for registrations/certifications as well as approve/disapprove the same in accordance with the following schedule:

Period to File Applications for Registration/ Certification	Last Day to Post Notice of Hearing of Applications for Registration	Last Day to File Opposition to Applications for Registration	Hearing of Applications for Registration And Approval/Disapproval Of Applications for Registration/ Certification
1 to 31 October 2005	21 November 2005	28 November 2005	5 December 2005
1 to 30 November 2005	21 December 2005	28 December 2005	4 January 2006
1 to 31 December 2005	21 January 2006	28 January 2006	6 February 2006
1 to 31 January 2006	21 February 2006	28 February 2006	7 March 2006
1 to 28 February 2006	21 March 2006	28 March 2006	4 April 2006
1 to 31 March 2006	21 April 2006	28 April 2006	5 May 2006
1 to 30 April 2006	21 May 2006	28 May 2006	5 June 2006
1 to 31 May 2006	21 June 2006	28 June 2006	5 July 2006
1 to 30 June 2006	21 July 2006	28 July 2006	4 August 2006
1 to 31 July 2006	21 August 2006	28 August 2006	4 September 2006
1 to 31 August 2006	5 October 2006	12 October 2006	19 October 2006

(PDI – March 20, 2005)

***Section 13**. Petition for Exclusion.* – Any interested party may file a verified petition for the exclusion from the NROAV of a registered or certified Overseas Absentee Voter not later than 15 December 2006, as follows:

a. For applications approved by the local ERB in connection with the 10 May 2004 national elections, with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC); and

b. For applications approved by the RERB, with the MTC-Manila.

The court shall decide the petition within fifteen (15) days after its filing on the basis of the documents submitted in connection therewith.

Should the court fail to render a decision within the prescribed period, the ruling of the RERB shall be considered affirmed with finality.

***Section 14**. Petition for Inclusion.* – No petition for inclusion may be filed for applications disapproved in connection with the 10 May 2004 elections.

For applications disapproved by the RERB, the applicant or his authorized representative shall, within a period of five (5) days from receipt of the notice of disapproval of his application for registration, may file a motion for reconsideration before the RERB which shall decide the same within five (5) days after its filing on the basis of documents submitted in connection therewith.

If the motion for reconsideration is given due course by the RERB, the name of the movant shall be included in the NROAV, unless his name is ordered excluded by a court of competent jurisdiction.

If the motion for reconsideration is denied by the RERB, the aggrieved party may file a petition for inclusion with the proper municipal or metropolitan trial court in Manila within ten (10) days from receipt of the notice of denial. The petition shall be decided by the court within fifteen (15) days after its filing on the basis of the documents submitted in connection therewith. Should the court fail to render a decision within the prescribed period, the ruling of the RERB shall be considered affirmed.

The Commission may make the necessary representation before the Court Administrator for the designation of special courts that shall hear and decide exclusion and inclusion cases.

***Section 15**. Field or Mobile Registration.* Upon the requests of the Posts and after a favorable endorsement of the OAVS, field or mobile registration may be allowed by the Commission primarily considering the number of potential registrants residing outside the immediate perimeters of the Posts.

All field or mobile registration should however meet the following guidelines:

1. The conduct of OAV mobile registration services will form part of the Posts' regular consular outreach services;

2. The host government allows such field or mobile registration activities/services;

3. The conduct of field or mobile registration services will not compromise the security, integrity, and sanctity of the registration process;

4. These field or mobile registration services will impact upon a significant part of the Filipino population in areas under the jurisdiction of the Posts;

5. The conduct of these field or mobile registration activities will form part of the continuing OAV registration services of the Post;

6. Information on the different schedules of field or mobile registration activities shall be widely disseminated by the Post;

7. The conduct of these field or mobile registration services shall be in a way that is consistent with the provisions of the OAV law and the procedures prescribed by the DFA Internal Guidelines;

8. The field or mobile registration services shall be undertaken by the authorized representatives of the Commission;

9. The conduct of mobile registration services will not entail any expense on the part of the Commission while the field registration services shall be conducted with the least expense on the part of the Commission;

10. Posts which will conduct field or mobile registration services will have to use DCMs for such purposes from their current inventory of DCMs; and,

11. OAV registration at the premises of the embassy/consulate will have to be continuing, notwithstanding the field or mobile registration activities that the Post may schedule.

***Section 16**. Application to Vote In Absentia.* The application to vote *in absentia* is incorporated in OAVF No. 1. Hence, an application for registration/certification as an overseas absentee voter shall also be considered as an application to vote *in absentia*.

***Section 17**. Inclusion in the National Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters.* All approved applications for registration/certification shall be included in the NROAV.

All approved applications of overseas absentee registrants shall also be added in the Registry of Overseas Absentee Voters (ROAV) of the city or municipality where the registrant is domiciled.

For purposes of the 14 May 2007 National Elections, the NROAV shall be prepared not later than 30 November 2006.

***Section 18**. Voters excluded from the National Registry of Absentee Voters through inadvertence or registered with an erroneous or misspelled name.* – Any registered overseas absentee voter whose name has been inadvertently omitted, or whose name has been misspelled or written erroneously in the NROAV, may personally or through his authorized representative, file with the COAV, not later than 15 December 2006, an application for reinstatement or correction of his name.

PART II
TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION RECORDS

***Section 19**. Procedure for Transfer of Registration Records* – OAVF No. 1B shall be accompanied by a photocopy of the requesting party's passport and filed personally or by mail, as follows:

A. For transfer from one Post to another –

Who may file. – Any registered overseas absentee voter who transfers residence from one Post to another.

Where to file. – At the Post having consular jurisdiction over his new residence or before the COAV.

When to file. – Not later than 31 August 2006.

The Post shall prepare a list of names of applicants who filed applications for transfer. Said list and the corresponding accomplished OAVF No. 1B shall be transmitted to the COAV simultaneously with the accomplished OAVF No. 1 and finalized CD's in the manner provided in Section 9.b.4.i.

B. For transfer from one country to another under the same consular jurisdiction of the Post –

Who may file. – Any registered overseas absentee voter who transfers residence from one country to another in the same Post having consular jurisdiction over two or more countries.

Where to file. – At the same Post having consular jurisdiction over the country of his new residence or before the COAV.

When to file – Not later than 31 August 2006.

The Post shall prepare a list of names of applicants who filed applications for transfer. Said list and the corresponding accomplished OAVF No. 1B shall be transmitted to the COAV simultaneously with the accomplished OAVF No. 1 and finalized CD's in the manner provided in Section 9.b.4.i.

C. For transfers from Post to the same Philippine city or municipality comprising the original residence of the applicant –

Who may file. – Any registered overseas absentee voter who transfers residence from Post to the same Philippine city or municipality comprising his original residence

Where to file – Before the COAV

When to file – during the period for the resumption of continuing registration in the Philippines but not later than 30 September 2006.

***For applications filed in connection with the 2004 Elections**,* the COAV shall verify if the applicant is included in the National Registry. If the applicant is included, the Chairman of the COAV shall approve the accomplished OAVF No. 1B and shall direct the Election Officer to include the applicant's name in the Computerized Voters' List (CVL) of the precinct comprising the applicant's residence, attaching to the directive a copy of the applicant's previously approved Application for Registration/Certification. If the applicant's name is already in the CVL, the EO shall remove the annotation, if any. If the name of the applicant does not appear in the NROAV, his OAVF No. 1B shall be disapproved.

The COAV shall notify the applicant of the Chairman's action on the Letter-Request. If his OAVF No. 1B was approved, the applicant shall personally appear before the EO, accomplish CEF-1B (Annex E), and submit himself to live biometrics capture.

For applications filed for the purpose of the 2007 Elections and future elections, the COAV shall verify if the applicant is included in the National Registry. If the applicant is included, the Chairman of the COAV shall issue a certification to that effect and forward the same to the EO concerned for ERB action, attaching thereto a copy of the applicant's previously approved Application for Registration/Certification.

The EO shall notify the applicant of the ERB's action on the Letter-Request, with copy furnished to the COAV. If his OAVF No. 1B was approved, the applicant shall personally appear before the EO, accomplish CEF-1B, and submit himself to live biometrics capture. The COAV shall remove the name of the applicant from the NROAV.

D. For transfers from Post to a Philippine city or municipality other than the original residence of the applicant –

Who may file – Any registered overseas absentee voter who transfers residence from Post to a Philippine city or municipality other than his original residence.

Where to file – Before the COAV.

When to file – during the period for the resumption of continuing registration in the Philippines but not later than 31 August 2006.

The COAV shall verify if the applicant is included in the National Registry. If the applicant is included, the Chairman of the COAV shall issue a certification to that effect and forward the same to the EO of applicant's new residence for ERB action, attaching thereto a copy of the applicant's previously approved Application for Registration/Certification.

The EO shall notify the applicant of the ERB's action on the OAVF No. 1B, with copy furnished to the COAV. If the same was approved, the applicant shall personally appear before the EO, accomplish CEF-1B, and submit himself to live biometrics capture. The COAV shall remove the name of the applicant from the NROAV and direct the EO of the applicant's old residence to delete his name from the ROAV and the CVL, if registered locally. If not registered locally, delete the applicant's name from the ROAV.

***Section 20**. Notice of Change of Address Pending Approval of the Application for Registration/Certification.* Applicants for registration/certification during the continuing overseas absentee voters' registration whose applications have been forwarded to the COAV and have not yet been acted upon by the RERB may request for either a change of address to another Post or the withdrawal of their applications for purposes of the 2007 National Elections by filing a verified OAVF No. 1B.

The filing may be done either at the Post where the applications were originally filed or at the Post which has consular jurisdiction over the applicant's new address, on or before 31 August 2006 attaching thereto a photocopy of their passports or any other legal document properly identifying the applicant.

The Post shall then send all these verified forms to the COAV which shall immediately act on the matter.

All applications which are not yet transmitted to the COAV and which are subject of withdrawals shall be disregarded by the Post. The applicant shall then apply to the Post where he intends to vote.

PART III
CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

***Section 21**. Preparation and Posting of Certified List of Overseas Absentee Voters* – The Commission shall prepare an updated CLOAV on a per Post and country basis not later than 14 January 2007 and furnish within the same period, electronic and hard copies thereof to the appropriate embassies, consulates and other foreign service establishments, which shall then post the same on their bulletin boards and websites within ten (10) days from receipt thereof.

Subject to reasonable regulation and the payment of prescribed fees, the candidates, political parties, accredited citizens' arms, and all other interested persons shall be furnished copies thereof.

***Section 22**. Access to official records and documents.* – Subject to the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9189 and this General Instructions and further subject to payment of prescribed fees, any person shall have the right to access and/or copy all registration records, voters lists and other official records and documents.

***Section 23**. Applicability of other COMELEC Resolutions.* – The pertinent provisions of other COMELEC Resolutions which are not in conflict with this General Instructions shall have suppletory application.

***Section 24**. Enforcement and administration by the Commission.* The Commission shall, for the purpose of ensuring honest, orderly, peaceful and free registration of voters abroad, have exclusive charge of the enforcement, administration and implementation of the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003.

***Section 25**. Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this General Instructions shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

***Section 26**. Effectivity.* – This General Instructions shall take effect immediately after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

***Section 27**. Dissemination.* – The EID of the Commission shall cause the publication and widest dissemination of this General Instructions and furnish copies hereof to the DFA, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Transportation and Communication, Philippine Postal Corporation, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Commission on Filipinos Overseas, and Maritime Industry Authority.

The EID, in coordination with the other concerned government agencies, is likewise directed to plan and implement a national information campaign and voters' education programs to apprise prospective overseas' registrants on the pertinent provisions of the overseas absentee voting law more particularly on the procedural aspects of registration.

APPROVED this 18th day of March 2005.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

(PDI – March 20, 2005)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB Market

The Philippine Daily Inquirer's
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brings forth a special forum entitled

FREE
Maximizing Results in Your Recruitment Ads

◆ Mechanics and elements in placing a job ad
◆ Process of Job Placement
◆ Hiring the Most Qualified Applicants

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Transco-Visayas achieves ISO certification

ISO 9001:2000 Certificate
March 3, 2005

THE NATIONAL Transmission Corporation's (TransCo) commitment to continually improve its processes and operational efficiency got an added boost with the recent awarding of an ISO 9001:2000 to its Visayas Operations & Maintenance Group. TransCo President and CEO Dr. Alan T. Ortiz (left) graced the March 3 awarding ceremony in Cebu with TransCo's ICVP for Visayas-Mindanao O&M Jules S. Alcantara (center) who received the certification from TUV Philippines Inc. represented by its General Manager, Jocelyn de los Reyes. The latest certification covers all four district offices of the region which have successfully institutionalized programs anchored on international standards of good management practice. They join other TransCo units which have similarly attained the world-class distinction, namely, the Mt. Province and Ilocos Districts in Northern Luzon, and the System Operations Group covering Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

NFA assures enough rice at affordable prices

THE NATIONAL Food Authority assures the public of the continued availability and sufficient stocks of the government's low-priced quality rice in the agency's 45 rolling stores and 26,640 accredited outlets in all public markets, especially in highly populated and depressed areas across the country. NFA rice is sold at P16 per kilogram for the regular-milled (RMR) variety and P18 per kg for the well-milled (WMR) variety. President Arroyo recently announced that NFA rice shall continue to be sold at these prices within the first semester of this year, despite the clamor by farmer organizations to increase the price of NFA rice in order to influence an increase in palay farm gate prices. Subsidy for the maintenance of NFA rice prices shall come from the government's current tax reform measures. The NFA recently adjusted its palay buying price to a uniform level of P10 per kg instead of a two-tier pricing system at P10/kg during the summer harvest from March to August and P9/kg for the main harvest from October to February. Additional incentives totaling P0.50/kg for drying, transport and cooperative development incentive fund (CDIF) is added on top of the P10/kg procurement price. As of March 14, total of 3,220 farmer organizations have already benefited from the CDIF. With the start of summer harvests this month, the NFA has also reactivated its 530 buying stations nationwide to aggressively buy palay from local farmers. But in view of the El Nino dry spell, the NFA has also started augmenting its buffer stocks with imported rice in preparation for the coming lean months of July to September.

Strikes out fly by night service contractors

The Philippine Association of Labor Service Contractors (Palscon), an association of legitimate and highly professional service contractors and in compliance with the labor laws forged ties with DoLE-NCR Director Ricardo Martinez of the Department of Labor and Employment signed a memorandum of agreement in the DoLE office to enforce the law, police its own ranks and report violators to DoLE. The objective of this is to clean up and "strikes out fly by night service contractors" and protect the interest of legitimate ones and their clients. Photo shows (sitting, from left): Linda Dichoson of Almer Manpower Corp and immediate past president of Palscon, Lilia Linda Ang of Skills and Talent Employment Pool Inc signing the MOA in behalf of Palscon, and in behalf of DoLE is Dir. Ricardo Martinez, Regional Director DoLE-NCR. Witnessing the signing (standing from left) Nelia Castro of Red Dragon Resources & Trading, Rafael S. Chico of Interlink Manpower Development & General Services Inc, Ruben Siron of City Service Inc, lawyer Agatha Ann L. Daquigan, Officer In Charge and Asst., Regional Director, DoLE-NCR, Nelson C. Hornilla, Officer in Charge-EPD, DOLE-NCR, Rowena Maceren of Globalink Employment Services Inc.

Backpack maker has yet to slip one on

By Senen Bravo

AFTER 10 years of outfitting mountaineers with outdoor gear, Montanara Sports Gear owner Eduardo Aquino, 53, has yet to slip on his backpack.

He says his busy schedule always got in the way.

"Much as I wanted to join a climb, paper work and other concerns held me back. Add to that my fear of heights," says Eduardo, who considers his regular visits to their marketing office on the third floor of New Farmers Plaza in Cubao and factory in Taytay, Rizal therapeutic.

"Talking with my people makes me feel good. Learning about their concerns would help the business a lot," says Eduardo.

He saw the emerging potential of outdoor gear back in the late '80s and early '90s when most mountaineers had to content themselves with school-type backpacks.

He had also gone through tough times, but his determination made the difference when he put up Aquino Industry.

In the early '80s, he lost his job after the automobile company he was working for closed shop.

"The economy was in shambles back then. Massive layoffs were the norm. I had no choice but to weather the crisis," says Eduardo.

He used his P8,000 separation pay to buy 10 sewing machines, and getting the inspiration from his seamstress mother who sewed aprons for a chicken slaughterhouse and curtains.

The determined Eduardo took up a sewing course to begin the business he believed held so much promise.

EDUARDO (left) and Geraldo pave the way for mountaineers and outdoor enthusiasts to have quality gear.

JANE PADUA-BRAVO

In 1989, Aquino Industry emerged as Eduardo entered into buy and sell. He would buy Korean scrap synthetic materials to make school bags, wallets, folders and coin purses in their backyard factory in Masambong, Quezon City. The items were distributed to National Bookstore and several retailers in Baclaran.

"National had a strict consignment requirement; good thing the quality of my products spoke for themselves," says Eduardo.

The turning point came when Eduardo's mountaineer-nephew suggested an outdoor gear business. Eduardo's nephew did the backpack design with various features, and estimated its weight capacity. Eduardo supplied the materials.

Soon after, the first 60-liter weight backpack would find its way to the back of his nephew.

Eduardo decided to form another company under Aquino Industry after getting requests from mountaineers and enthusiasts.

A Swede friend suggested the Swiss word Montanara (which means mountain boy). His friend also designed the logo. In 1995 Montanara Sports Gear became the business name.

Eduardo later added sandals and accessories such as organizers, clutch bags, shoulder wallets, bush hats, solar flares and sleeping bags to Montanara's product line.

In 1999, administrative/marketing officer Geraldo Esteban decided to offer the products first to Toby's, knowing its reach.

"We were proud to claim that the Montanara bags arrived first at Toby's branches and have continued to enjoy brisk sales," says Esteban.

Bicol registered the biggest sales to date and locals there even ran a joke:"*Kung hindi Montanara ang suot mong sandals, majejaywalking ka* (If you don't wear a pair of Montanara sandals, you would be charged with jaywalking)."

Esteban believes that effective marketing involves approaching the media.

"We accompanied and trained the Magandang Gabi Bayan mountaineers when they climbed Mt. Apo, plus the Correspondents staff on their way to Palawan. Most of them were outfitted with Montanara gear," says Esteban.

Danger seemed unavoidable, the group would later find out.

"We climbed Mt. Talamitan in Nasugbu, Batangas, alongside Manels employees. Along the way we encountered armed Cafgus who tried to extort money from the group. We came to the point of calling our ABS-CBN friends. Fortunately, nothing bad happened to us," says Esteban.

After several treks with ABS-CBN, most of its employees became regular customers including cameramen who order a specially designed camera jacket.

To maintain the competitive edge, Montanara continues to create different backpack models.

"We made the first backpack having a back-body foam, aluminum frames, an S-type harness and a built-in cover. The bag undergoes five treks to determine its reliability," says Eduardo.

He added that the company's membership in the Philippine Franchising and Retailers Association is part of a long-term plan to get a bigger share of the market.

"Becoming a member enables us to get recognized by big business organizations, especially during conventions where they gather," says Esteban.

Montanara proudly claims to be the first organization to teach a mountaineering course during team building seminars. Satisfied clients include Amkor-Anam, Odyssey, Toby's and Manels.

Yolly Feliciano, Montanara's mountaineering expert, teaches backpacking (how to pack items), setting up of tents (how to spot an ideal area), knot-tying, reading trail signs and hand and feet coordination techniques. The mountaineering staff also has a fireman rescue team member.

This summer Montanara's production will kick into high gear.

"Mountaineers are expected to come in droves, so we would add more designs to our existing 41 backpack models," says Eduardo.

With the way things are going, Eduardo surely is at the top of his game.

Singer launches new showroom

FRONTING the Tutuban Center Mall is Sergon Marketing, Inc., an authorized dealer of world-famous Singer sewing machines for over three decades. The business was started by former Singer Philippines supervisor Sergio S. Gonzales in 1969, who was chosen as one of the company's first few authorized dealers in the country.

He happily recalls this momentous opportunity: "By 1969, Singer was mandated by law to go into dealer operations as against operating own shops, and I was very lucky to have this place as my outlet. I was chosen as one of the dealers. This has been an existing outlet of Singer before, since around 1960."

His daughter, Edith Gonzales-Bernal, took over the reins in 1992 and has continuously worked hard in making Singer's products and services more accessible to buyers. The decades of commitment and dedication have paid off, and Edith reveals that this led to a better relationship with Singer.

"A lot of people know about the shop already; this is an institution that's been here for thirty years. We're honored that our store was chosen to be the first one to be renovated and given a showroom. The Singer people came over and talked to me about putting it up.

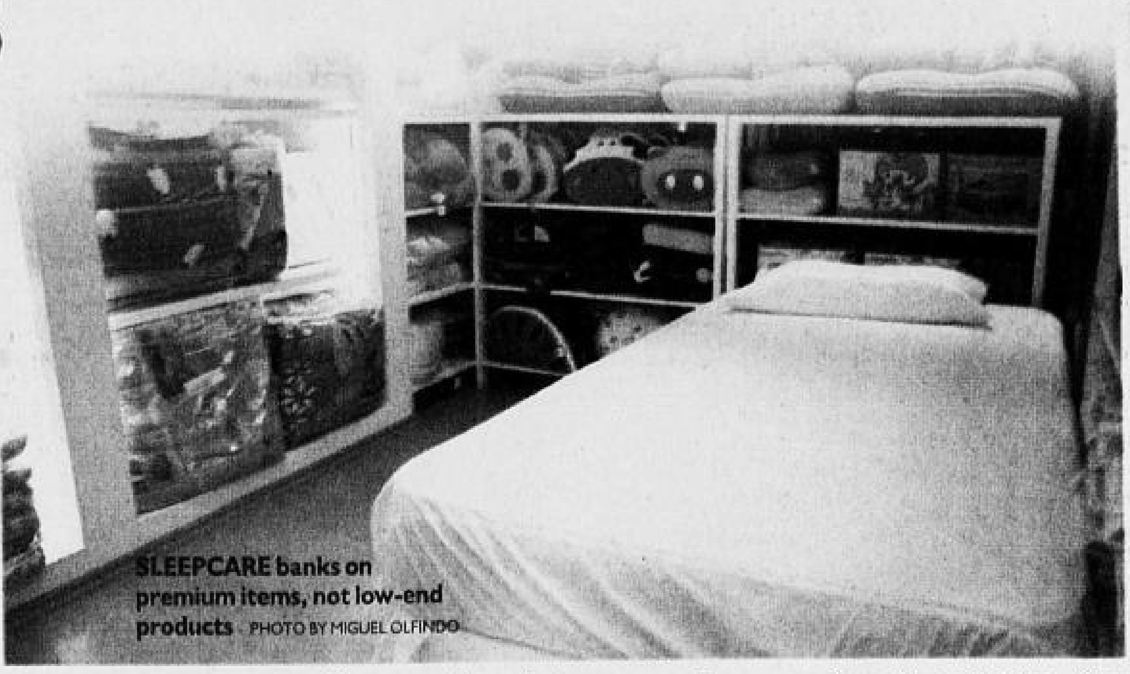
The timing was really right. They saw that there's a lot of walking traffic here."

The Sergon Singer showroom was

SINGER/ B7

Three lively ventures that bank on sleep

By Emmaruth Gabriel
Contributor


SLEEPCARE banks on premium items, not low-end products . PHOTO BY MIGUEL OLFINDO

COCOONING means retreating to a sanctuary where you can bring the pace of life down a notch and reconnect with the familiar.

The era of "cocooning," a dominant lifestyle trend in the 80s is experiencing a major comeback. American trend guru Faith Popcorn first predicted the cocooning lifestyle in the late '70s. In the '80s, marketers and advertisers cashed in on the continuing trend of baby boomers nesting. The 90s, global consumer psyches dictated safe, well-appointed and cozy homes. They purchased products to enhance the comfort of their protective cocoons.

New stores caught on and the lifestyle store was born.

Creative entrepreneurs on the other hand, start out with bootstrap funds and gut feel for their markets to produce soothing consumer products.

Living in your PJs

Ise Velayo and friends started producing 100 percent cotton sleepwear for moms and children 15 years ago. "That time we were all busy with our jobs... one was in real estate development, two were with Philippine Airlines and I was with ADB then," recounts Velayo in an e-mail message. Despite their harried lives and careers, the partners conceptualized and dreamt of making "Antukin," their initial venture into sleepwear a reality.

The four partners contributed P5,000 each as initial capital for Antukin. "It was an adventure for us to get involved with every step of the way- from purchasing materials, drawing up designs, checking the production (and subcontracting) and quality, packaging with sinamay, approaching buyers and stores. Today all partners are married with children... I run the business with one remaining partner who leaves everything to me," writes Velayo.

Selling to small boutiques initially, Antukin products caught on and soon the partners found themselves exporting. "One of our first buyers was the US department store Nordstrom," says Velayo.

Antukin sleepwear is distinctively held together by French seams (*doble pasada*). Sewers in Cainta and Rizal stitch together the feather-like cotton fabric to sleepwear you can live in. " All my employees are women and they are the bread winners of their families. I am very proud of them." Buyers appreciate their clean and classic designs. Making high quality cotton sleepwear was a good call since most manufacturers use scratchy poly cotton fabrics.

Priced on the wholesale tack, Velayo's products are sold to high-end small boutiques and hotels in the city. Antukin products currently make the bazaar rounds at the American women's Club Bazaar at the World trade Center and the Karl Edwards Bazaar at the Fort.

Actress Chin-Chin Gutierrez produced a CD of lullabies.

Culled from her travels to far flung villages in the country and lovingly produced with the help of her supportive village of friends," Uyayi: A Collection of Philippine Lullabies" was given life and fruition.

Rocking the cradle

"Breathing life into Uyayi meant embarking on an expedition that crossed over three years of research and production, gathering more than 50 lullabies in over a dozen vernaculars," writes Chin Chin.

She chose lullabies because "it is a heart song, a lullaby flows freely."

A video journal of the road trip the artist went through is included in the album. The partial grant that footed part of the cost of producing Uyayi made it possible for the journey to happen.

The risk of preserving indigenous lullabies paid off. Last October 2004, Uyayi was named Best Secular Album at the prestigious Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA), together with a special citation given to Chin Chin for her commendable and unique contribution to promoting Philippine indigenous culture and music.

Asked if she had a hard time producing the CD, she responds with "As a fledging producer and musical performer, it was an initiation into being both a follower and a leader. On one hand, I had to find the right collaborators for the project, set a timetable, balance not only the books but also the various temperaments of the inspired individuals in this production. One the other hand, as an artist, I had to yield to the common aspirations of indigenous voices yearning to be heard, knowing that they generously shared their life songs with me, I was expected to be faithful to the spirit of their ancestors."

Taking you to bed

Charene C. Tieng is the creative force behind Gourdo's and Living Well store chains. Tieng is no stranger to home accessories and home furnishings. Her grandfather started selling house ware at their home in Sto. Cristo, Binondo in the '60's.

She opened a new lifestyle store selling everything that you'd like to take to bed with you. Sleepcare concretizes the general concept of providing solutions to better sleep. To date, Tieng's Sleepcare has two branches—one at the Glorietta in Makati City and Shangrila Edsa in Mandaluyong.

And who can't get a good night's snooze with Aromatherapy pillows that let you experience the awakening passion of jasmine, the uplifting scent of roses by your bedside and the calming traces of lavender?

For their core products, Tieng uses her own brand—Sleepcare. "We source all over the world—we go direct to factories, give our input and design so we can have a finished product that fits our customers' requirements in terms of price, aesthetics, design, and function. In terms of beddings—as in sheets, which are more of fashion items, we go to the big brands from the United States, Italy and Hong Kong like Martex, Bassetti and A-Fontane. Known for design and quality.

Banking on premium items rather than sticking with lower end products that are sure to sell proved a marketing masterstroke for Tieng and Sleepcare. Harried and weary customers do not flinch at spending for items that will guarantee them a restful night's slumber. "We have customers who know what they need. They're well-traveled and educated about sleep/beddings," continues Karen Sanchez, Sleepcare and Gourdo's resident marketing maven.

Customizing and personalized service is another benchmark Sleepcare upholds. The Pillow Selector is the first ever machine (in store) that makes use of optics and computer analysis to prescribe the right pillow for you, depending on your specific built. It measures the angle of your neck from your back and the distance between the side of your head and your shoulder to determines the right pillow that will keep your spine straight and relaxed the whole time you are sleeping, whether you're on your back or on your side. Through this, cervical and other neck problems are avoided since the natural cervical curve is maintained.

As the upper middle and affluent market seeks a new equilibrium, they are constantly trying to re-connect with things that make the race for luxury matter—the warmth of home and the feel of the warm bodies that count most in your life.

Wake up. It's here.

If you are an urbanite at heart, the city is your soul. Big cities are crowded. Tumbled up and down.

But there are breakaways that happen once in a while. Like Rockwell. It is a departure from the standard Burbs. Absolutely contained, traffic is not sanctioned here. And security runs 24-hours daily. In this era of anxiety attacks, that's one less worry.

Despite the peace, Rockwell rocks. Surprising structures change the skyline every now and then. But even with these, there is no sense of overcrowding. Towers loom but space is preserved. The marvel of urban planning makes the place teem with life and abundant space.

Rockwell is diverse. There are bargain haunts as well as designer labels, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and transitional events and a global choice of restaurants.

Walk the streets of Rockwell and feel a dose of Beverly Hills. The neighborhood wears the charm, the soul and the attitude of a place that doesn't need to prove anything anymore.

Exclusive as it is, Rockwell is not the bastion of "The Stepford Wives". It is not rigid, imposing nor intimidating. Smiles are casual, real and warm.

Quite a dream place that you can have. The price is within your league. But the feeling is close to fantastic.

Rockwell Information Center,
Rockwell Drive corner
Estrella St., Makati Tel. No. (632)
890-6888 / 756-5022
www.e-rockwell.com

Joya at Rockwell

Singer

From page B6

opened last Feb. 24. A wide selection of Singer sewing machines and an array of appliances is on display, including televisions, refrigerators, washing machines, and small kitchen appliances. Edith is pleased with the changes that this special occasion will bring to the business.

"Before, we just sold sewing machines, their parts and services. But now, we can offer all the other products of Singer, which are a lot more than sewing machines, actually. They have all these household appliances; we're offering everything now. We're also offering easy installment plans now, so our market will be growing. The store will be selling cash and installment on a permanent basis from now on."

Ramir Libre, sales and marketing manager of Singer, reflects her enthusiasm, as well: "This location is a prime area. There's a lot of potential here. We want to upgrade the status of our dealers, and we're looking at ten showrooms nationwide. This is the first one we built for a franchise dealer except for the showroom located at the main office that displays different Singer appliances exclusively. We want to increase walk-ins, as well."

He is looking forward to more showroom launches and events, which he hopes will bring the trusted company's products to more households. "We'd like to revive the sewing machine, since this is our core product. We're also planning a lot of activities like free sewing lessons and free cooking demonstrations to promote our cooking ranges in our Port Area office showroom."

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VSP-233-DOE/2005
07 March 2005

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. PN2005-03-001

Declaration of Remote and Unviable Areas Pursuant to Section 59 of the EPIRA and Rule 14 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations

NOTICE is hereby given that the following remote and unviable areas (Annex A) have been declared open for the provision of electric service by Qualified Third Parties (QTPs) pursuant to Section 59 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 otherwise known as EPIRA and Rule 14 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Electric Cooperatives (ECs) having franchise obligations over these remote and unviable areas have issued the corresponding Board Resolutions allowing other electric service providers to serve these areas. Investment in any type of power supply technology will be supported; however, the use of renewable energy technologies, such as, mini-hydro system, may receive technical assistance. Appropriate level of subsidies is planned to be available to support the projects. Clustering of these areas to form mini-grids is also encouraged.

Interested parties including private entities, local government units, cooperatives and non-government organizations may obtain relevant information on these areas from the contact persons below.

Rural Electrification Administration and Management Division
Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
Department of Energy
Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig City, Metro Manila
Telephone Numbers (632) 840-5593 or 840-2120

Attention: Mr. Noel D. Binag, Division Chief
Mr. Bienvenido C. Mendoza, Supv. Science Research Specialist

VICENTE S. PEREZ, JR.
Secretary

ANNEX A. PARTIAL LIST OF DECLARED REMOTE AND UNVIABLE AREAS

No.	Distribution Utility	Region	Province	Municipality	Barangay
LUZON					
1	OMECO	4-B	Oc. Mindoro	Paluan	Tubili
2	ORMECO	4-B	Or. Mindoro	Bulalacao (San Pedro)	Maujao
3	ORMECO	4-B	Or. Mindoro	Bulalacao (San Pedro)	Milagrosa (Guiob)
4	ORMECO	4-B	Or. Mindoro	Naujan	Caburo
5	ORMECO	4-B	Or. Mindoro	Naujan	San Andres
6	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Agutaya	Concepcion
7	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Balabac	Bugsuk (New Cagayancillo)
8	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Balabac	Catagupan
9	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Balabac	Pasig
10	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Balabac	Rabor
11	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Culandanum
12	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Malitub
13	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Ocayan
14	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Puring
15	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Rio Tuba
16	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Sapa
17	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Sarong
18	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Sumbiling
19	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Tabud
20	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Tagnato
21	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Tagolango
22	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Taratak
23	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Bataraza	Tarusan
24	BISELCO	4-B	Palawan	Busuanga	Burabod
25	BISELCO	4-B	Palawan	Culion	Binudac
26	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	Bebeladan
27	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	Manlag
28	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	New Ibajay
29	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	San Fernando
30	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	Sibaltan
31	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	El Nido (Bacuit)	Villa Paz
32	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Quezon	Aramaywan
33	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Quezon	Isugod
34	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Quezon	Tagusao
35	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Rizal (Marcos)	Iraan
36	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Rizal (Marcos)	Panalingaan
37	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Antonino
38	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Barangay V Pob. (Porao I Island)
39	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Barangay VI Pob. (Johnson Island)
40	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Caramay
41	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Iraan
42	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Jolo
43	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Mendoza
44	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Nicanor Zabala
45	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Rizal
46	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	San Isidro
47	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	San Miguel
48	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	San Nicolas
49	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Taradungan
50	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Tinitian
51	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Roxas	Tumarbong
52	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	San Vicente	Binga
53	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	San Vicente	Caruray
54	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	San Vicente	Kemdeng
55	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	San Vicente	Santo Niño
56	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Alacalian
57	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Baras (Pangpang)
58	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	New Guinlo
59	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Old Guinlo
60	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Pamantolon
61	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Pancol
62	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	San Jose
63	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Sandoval
64	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Silanga
65	PALECO	4-B	Palawan	Taytay	Talog
66		4-B	Palawan	Kalayaan	Pag-Asa (Pob.)
67		5	Masbate	Claveria	Albasan
68		5	Masbate	Claveria	Boca Engaño
69		5	Masbate	Claveria	Buyo
70		5	Masbate	Claveria	Calpi
71		5	Masbate	Claveria	Canomay
72		5	Masbate	Claveria	Cawayan
73		5	Masbate	Claveria	Imelda
74		5	Masbate	Claveria	Mababang Baybay
75		5	Masbate	Claveria	Mabuon
76		5	Masbate	Claveria	Manapao
77		5	Masbate	Claveria	Nabasagan
78		5	Masbate	Claveria	Nonoc
79		5	Masbate	Claveria	Osmena
80		5	Masbate	Claveria	Pasig
81		5	Masbate	Claveria	Peñafrancia
82		5	Masbate	Claveria	Poblacion District I (Barangay 1)
83		5	Masbate	Claveria	Poblacion District II (Barangay 2)
84		5	Masbate	Claveria	Quezon
85		5	Masbate	Claveria	San Isidro
86		5	Masbate	Claveria	San Ramon
87		5	Masbate	Claveria	San Vicente
88		5	Masbate	Claveria	Taguilid
Total for Luzon :					88 Barangays
VISAYAS					
89	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Balete	Oquendo
90	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Ibajay	Malindog
91	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Ibajay	Mina-a
92	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Ibajay	Yawan
93	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Libacao	Dalagsa-an
94	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Libacao	Manika
95	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Libacao	Oyang
96	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Madalag	Maria Cristina
97	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Madalag	Panipiason
98	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Makato	Bagong Barrio
99	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Malinao	Capataga
100	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Nabas	Pawa
101	AKELCO	6	Aklan	Tangalan	Tamokoe
102	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	Capnayan
103	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	Guiamon
104	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	Jinalinan
105	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	Pascuala
106	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	San Ramon
107	ANTECO	6	Antique	Laua-an	Tibacan
108	AKELCO	6	Antique	Pandan	Aracay
109	AKELCO	6	Antique	Pandan	Maadios
110	AKELCO	6	Antique	Pandan	Napuid
111	ANTECO	6	Antique	San Remigio	Osorio I
112	ANTECO	6	Antique	San Remigio	Osorio II
113	ANTECO	6	Antique	Sibalom	Cabladan
114	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Aglunok
115	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Caratagan
116	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Hilwan
117	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Manaripay
118	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Marandig
119	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Supanga
120	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Calinog	Tigbayog
121	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Janiuay	Atimonan
122	ILECO II	6	Iloilo	Lambunao	Cabatangan
123	NORECO I	7	Negros Oriental	Guihulngan	Calupa-an
124	NORECO I	7	Negros Oriental	Jimalalud	Eli
125	NORECO I	7	Negros Oriental	La Libertad	Cangabo
126	NORECO I	7	Negros Oriental	La Libertad	Eli
127	NORECO I	7	Negros Oriental	La Libertad	Pitogo
128	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Arteche	Cagsalay
129	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Arteche	Campacion
130	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Arteche	Inayawan
131	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Arteche	Tawagan
132	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Arteche	Tebalawon
133	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Denigpian
134	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Gap-ang
135	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Jicontol
136	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	San Pascual
137	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	San Roque
138	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Santa Cruz
139	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Tikling
140	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Dolores	Villahermosa
141	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Guiuan	Banaag
142	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Guiuan	Bitaugan
143	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Guiuan	Buenavista
144	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Guiuan	Habag
145	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Bolingasag
146	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Buntay
147	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Cadian
148	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Gamot
149	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Naga
150	ESAMELCO	8	E. Samar	Oras	Rizal
151	LEYECO IV	8	Leyte	Hilongos	San Antonio
152	LEYECO IV	8	Leyte	Hindang	Mahilum
153	LEYECO IV	8	Leyte	Inopacan	Caulisihan
154	LEYECO IV	8	Leyte	Inopacan	De los Santos (Mahilum)
Total for Visayas :					66 Barangays
MINDANAO					
155	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dinas	Dongos
156	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dinas	Pisa-an
157	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dinas	Sagacad
158	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Bagong Silang
159	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Danlugan
160	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Datu Totocan
161	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Gunpingan
162	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Labangon
163	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Saad
164	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Dumingag	Sunop
165	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Labangan	Cogonan
166	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Danganan
167	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Linokmadalum
168	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Luanan
169	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Mahalingeb
170	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Mandeg
171	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Maralag
172	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Pingalay
173	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	San Jose
174	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Tabon
175	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Lapuyan	Tugaya
176	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Mahayag	Paraiso
177	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Mahayag	Pedagan
178	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Mahayag	Tulan
179	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Margosatubig	Josefina
180	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Margosatubig	Talanusa
181	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Dakayakan
182	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Guitalos
183	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Kahayagan
184	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Licuro-an
185	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	New Katipunan
186	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Pawan
187	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Pili
188	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Pisompongan
189	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Piwan
190	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Midsalip	Tuluan
191	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	San Miguel	Concepcion
192	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	San Miguel	Langilan
193	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	San Pablo	Lumbayao
194	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	San Pablo	Ticala Island
195	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	San Pablo	Villakapa
196	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Sominot (Don Mariano Marcos)	Bag-ong Baroy
197	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Sominot (Don Mariano Marcos)	Datagan
198	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Sominot (Don Mariano Marcos)	Picturan
199	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Sominot (Don Mariano Marcos)	Sawa
200	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tambulig	Bag-ong Kauswagan
201	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tambulig	Dumalinao
202	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tambulig	Lower Liasan
203	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tambulig	Maya-maya
204	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tambulig	Upper Liason
205	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tigbao	Guinlin
206	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tigbao	Lacarayan
207	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tigbao	Mate
208	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tigbao	Nangan-nangan
209	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tigbao	New Tuburan
210	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tukuran	Balumbingan
211	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tukuran	Libertad
212	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tukuran	San Antonio
213	ZAMSURECO I	9	Zamboanga Del Sur	Tukuran	Santo Rosario
214	ZAMSURECO I	10	Misamis Oc.	Don Victoriano Chiongbian (Don Mariano Marcos)	Gandawan
215	ZAMSURECO I	10	Misamis Oc.	Don Victoriano Chiongbian (Don Mariano Marcos)	Lake Duminagat
216	ZAMSURECO I	10	Misamis Oc.	Don Victoriano Chiongbian (Don Mariano Marcos)	Liboron
217	ZAMSURECO I	10	Misamis Oc.	Don Victoriano Chiongbian (Don Mariano Marcos)	Maranara
218	ZAMSURECO I	10	Misamis Oc.	Don Victoriano Chiongbian (Don Mariano Marcos)	Nueva Vista (Masawan)
219	DASURECO	11	Davao Del Sur	Sulop	Clib
220	DASURECO	11	Davao Del Sur	Sulop	Labon
221	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Akol
222	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Balwan (Bulan)
223	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Bambanen
224	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Batang-baglas
225	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Butril
226	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Colobe (Tagadtal)
227	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kabuling
228	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kalibuhan
229	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kidayan
230	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kiponget
231	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kisek
232	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Kraan
233	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Langali
234	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Libua
235	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Ligao
236	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Lumitan
237	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Maganao
238	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Maguid
239	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Malatuneng (Malatunol)
240	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Malisbong
241	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Medol
242	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Mina
243	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Molon
244	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Namat Masla
245	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Napnapon
246	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Tibuhol (East Badiangon)
247	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Palimbang	Wasag
248	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Sen. Ninoy Aquino	Basag
249	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Sen. Ninoy Aquino	Buklod
250	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Sen. Ninoy Aquino	Kapatagan
251	SUKELCO	12	Sultan Kudarat	Sen. Ninoy Aquino	Kuden
252	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Bayugan	Getsemane
253	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Bayugan	Mahayag
254	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Bayugan	Pinagalaan
255	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Bunawan	Nueva Era
256	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Bunawan	San Marcos
257	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Esperanza	San Isidro
258	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Esperanza	Sinakungan
259	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Esperanza	Taganahaw
260	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Angeles
261	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Kasapa II
262	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Langasian
263	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Lydia
264	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Sabang Adgawan
265	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	San Patricio
266	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	La Paz	Valentina
267	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Loreto	Kasapa
268	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Loreto	Katipunan
269	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Loreto	Kauswagan
270	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	San Luis	Dimasalang
271	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	San Luis	Mahagsay
272	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	San Luis	Policarpo
273	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	San Luis	Santa Rita
274	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	San Luis	Wegguam
275	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	Del Rosario
276	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	Kioya
277	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	Kolambugan
278	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	Magkalape
279	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	New Tubigon
280	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	San Isidro
281	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Sibagat	Santa Cruz
282	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Talacogon	Maharlika
283	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Talacogon	Sabang Gibung
284	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Veruela	Caigangan
285	ASELCO	CARAGA	Agusan Del Sur	Veruela	Limot
286	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	Cantilan	Lobo
287	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	Carrascal	Pantukan
288	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	Lanuza	Mampi
289	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	Lanuza	Pakwan
290	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	San Miguel	Bagyang
291	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	San Miguel	Bitaugan
292	SURSECO II	CARAGA	Surigao Del Sur	San Miguel	Calatngan
293	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Ampatuan	Sugadol
294	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Ampatuan	Tubak
295	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Bualan
296	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Gadung
297	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Liong
298	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Lipa
299	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Lipawan
300	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Marang
301	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Minabay
302	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Nabalawag
303	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Barira	Rominimbang
304	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Ampuan
305	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Aratuc
306	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Cabayuan
307	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Karim
308	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Kulimpang
309	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Mataya
310	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Minabay
311	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Pantawan
312	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Piers
313	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buldon	Rumidas
314	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buluan	Lower Siling
315	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Buluan	Tinambulan
316	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Odin Sinsuat (Dinaig)	Bongued
317	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Paglas	Lipao
318	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Paglas	Salendab
319	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Piang	Pendaten
320	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Piang	Reina Regente
321	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Datu Piang	Tee
322	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Gen. S.K. Pendatun	Damakling
323	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Gen. S.K. Pendatun	Lumabao
324	SUKELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Gen. S.K. Pendatun	Upper Idig
325	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Buterin16
326	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Guiawa17
327	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Indatuan
328	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Kapimpilan
329	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Pagalungan
330	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Payan
331	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Pened
332	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Kabuntalan (Tumbao)	Sabaken19
333	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Mamasapano	Dabenayan
334	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Mamasapano	Dasikil
335	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Matanog	Bayanga Norte
336	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Matanog	Kidama
337	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Matanog	Langco
338	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Matanog	Sapad
339	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Balatungkayo (Batungkayo)
340	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Bulit
341	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Bulod
342	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Limbalud
343	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Mandagao
344	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Nabundas
345	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagagawan	Talapas
346	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Bagoenged
347	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Buliok
348	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Dalgan9
349	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Damalasak
350	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Galakit
351	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Kilangan
352	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Kudal
353	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Pagalungan	Linandangan
354	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Bongo Island (Litayen)
355	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Campo Islam12
356	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Cotongan
357	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Datu Macarambong Biruar
358	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Kabuan11
359	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Limbayan
360	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Orandang
361	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Samberen
362	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Tagudtongan
363	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Parang	Tuca-Maror
364	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Bulayan
365	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Dale-Bong
366	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Limpongo
367	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Macalag
368	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Malangog
369	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Pamalian
370	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Panangeli
371	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Pikeg
372	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Tina
373	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Shariff Aguak (Maganoy)	Tuntungan
374	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	South Upi	Itaw
375	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	South Upi	Kuya
376	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	South Upi	Lamud
377	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	South Upi	Pilar
378	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	South Upi	San Jose
379	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Banatin
380	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Kapimpilan
381	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Madapa
382	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Malengen
383	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Nalinan
384	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Nekitan
385	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Olas
386	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Pingping
387	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Sambolawan
388	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Kudarat (Nuling)	Sendatan
389	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Angkayamat
390	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Bakat
391	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Bulod
392	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Darampua
393	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Gadungan
394	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Kulambog
395	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Langgapanan
396	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Masulot
397	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Paldong
398	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Panadtaban
399	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Papakan
400	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Sampao
401	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Sultan Sa Barongis (Lambayong)	Tabungao
402	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Boboguiron
403	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Datalpandan
404	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Fugotan
405	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Fukol
406	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Kateman
407	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Lambayao
408	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Lantung
409	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Marader
410	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Muslim
411	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Muti
412	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Sampao
413	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Tamar
414	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talayan	Timbaluan
415	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Bintan (Bentan)
416	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Gadungan
417	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Kilalan
418	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Makadayon
419	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Manggay
420	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Talitay	Pageda
421	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Bantek
422	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	[illegible]
423	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Metti
424	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Renti
425	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Rosa
426	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Rifao
427	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Sinipak
428	MAGELCO	ARMM	Maguindanao	Upi	Tambak
Total for Mindanao:					274 Barangays
GRAND TOTAL OF BARANGAYS TO BE DECLARED OPEN:					428 Barangays

(PDI--March 20, 2005)

CYPRESS

CYPRESS SEMICONDUCTOR PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS, LTD.

Regional Operating Headquarters

Supporting Cypress Semiconductor Worldwide, a diversified, broadline suppliers with a communications focus. Cypress has created some of the world's leading semiconductor products that support key communications businesses.

Cypress has aligned its organization along four market-focused segments:

- Wireless Terminals
- Wireless Infrastructure
- Wide Area Networks
- Storage Networks

Cypress Semiconductor is a global supplier of high-performance integrated circuits. Our global headquarter is located at San Jose California. Our strategic customer-leaders in the data communications, networking, telecommunications, and personal computer markets.

At Cypress, we strive to surpass current standards in the world's most competitive high tech arena. We take career growth of our people seriously. We provide training incentive in all levels. We reward success and hard work with competitive salary, tuition refund, employee bonuses, and a flexible benefits package.

At Cypress, winning is our business and we only hire the best.

SENIOR BUYERS (Code: TZK –ROHQ1)

- Responsible for a range of commodities or assignments; requiring the full use and application of standard purchasing techniques.
- Ensures timely acquisition of product or service requirements and maintenance of supplier relationships.
- Participates in supplier performance and/or cost reduction/continuous improvement programs.
- Negotiates standard contracts place basic purchase orders; Acquires and use market research in sourcing decisions.
- Applies established strategies and tactics to achieve goals; Participates in cross-functional team activities and
- Assists in the location of secondary sources of supply.

Job Specific Requirements:
Skills: Spreadsheet, Word Processing and Presentation software skills highly recommended. Oracle purchasing modules experience a plus. E-mail and Internet Browser experience highly desirable. Must demonstrate effective communication, interpersonal and team skills

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Minimum Education / Experience: BS/BA degree plus two to four years experience or MS/MBA degree and up to three years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience. Requires working knowledge of standard purchasing systems and procedures.

INTERNAL AUDITORS (3) (Code: NRE- ROHQ2)

- Responsible for adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment management has established to reasonably help ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, safeguarding of company assets, reliability of financial reporting, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Conducts management testing of key internal controls to support Sarbanes Oxley section 404 Certification. This will include: Preparing test plans for key controls, executing test plans, documenting results and recommending remediation steps for management to implement where necessary and assisting in the development and implementation of an on-going management testing process.
- Participates in financial and operational audits focusing on the adequacy of the internal control environment.
- Responsible for completing fieldwork, explaining audit exceptions, recommending operational enhancements or efficiencies, documenting procedures, and preparing reports.
- The internal auditor will have extensive interaction with management at all levels of the organization.
- The internal auditor will work under the supervision of the Internal Audit Manager and must be able to work in a team environment as well as independently.

Job Specific Requirements
Project management skills, Strong accounting cycle knowledge preferred, including Revenue, AP, AR, GL, financial reporting Knowledge of corporate governance regulations, laws (Sarbanes-Oxley) and corporate governance best practices
Experience with COSO based assessment program; Excellent written, oral communication skills and interpersonal skills are critical. Must exhibit the ability to balance multiple, high priority projects simultaneously; Excellent understanding and grasp of business concepts and operations; Willingness to travel and occasionally work night shift during certain audits; Excellent PC skills (Excel, Word, & Access, Project, PowerPoint, Visio)

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or related field; 3 years Audit experience is required. (i.e., Public Accounting Firm, Internal Audit, etc.) Achievement or the active pursuit of one or more of the following professional certifications is strongly preferred Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Chartered Accountant (CA); Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) Responsible for new product releases.

TREASURY ANALYST (Code: HHC-ROHQ3)

- Participates in daily cash planning, cash forecasting, banking and investment reporting & analysis.
- Supports other treasury business processes including foreign exchange, financing, insurance and the company loan program based on performance.
- Contributes to the treasury close process and will be responsible for applicable accounting activities.
- Participate in treasury and/or cross-functional projects, along with documentation & re-engineering of treasury business processes.
- Duties will include a mixture of transactional, project work, reporting & analytical activities.
- This position will report directly to the site Treasury Manager and support treasury projects defined by the Treasurer at our Corporate Headquarters in San Jose, California, USA

Job Specific Requirements:
Treasury knowledge & experience including; banking, cash management, cash forecasting and investments is required. Exposure to foreign exchange hedging, financing, insurance or other treasury responsibilities would be ideal.
Ability to meet treasury accounting & general ledger reconciliation requirements. A working knowledge of Microsoft Access, Oracle ERP system & banking/treasury systems & software.
Excellent communication skills are required. In addition this person must have analytical skills, be able to work under pressure and produce a high quality result. - Willing to report during night shift

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS or BA Degree in Finance/Accounting/Business or equivalent, CPA and/or MBA preferred - 4 years minimum of Treasury or related experience - Hands on accounting knowledge & audit interface experience - Demonstrated capability to function in fast paced high tech company. Treasury accounting experience & ability to understand the "big picture", as well as the details - Proficiency in computing skills including Microsoft Excel, Word & PowerPoint.

COST ACCOUNTANTS (ING-ROHQ4)

- Maintains standard cost system and establishes new item setups. Ensure inventory values and product costs are accurate.
- Completes month-end close processes including reconciliation of all inventory accounts and various cost of sales/ variances accounts.
- Responsible for accurate, timely reports/results for multiple manufacturing locations. Provides as-needed analyses to various internal customers including Product lines.
- Identifies cost accounting issues, recommend policy/procedure improvements, and keep current on technical accounting pronouncements including Sarbanes-Oxley.

Job Specific Requirements:
Knowledgeable of General Accounting Principles specifically in Inventory accounting. Excellent computer skills- that includes advance knowledge in Microsoft Applications (Excel/Word/PowerPoint) while experience in database query tools is an advantage.
Must posses excellent verbal / written communications skills along with solid analytical ability. Ability to deal with varied situations and respond quickly and effectively given changing priorities and deadlines. Ability to function as team participant can work with all levels of management and with all business functions.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor Degree in Business Administration.(BSBA) Accounting, preferably CPA. Required 5 to 7 years related Accounting/ Finance experience, with a minimum of 4 years in Cost Accounting. Prior experience in Semiconductor Industry Cost Accounting and knowledge in Oracle Financials is highly preferred.

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST (LAQ-ROHQ5)

- Responsible for working with third party global freight payment companies and carriers to ensure timely and accurate Freight invoice payments to transportation providers, resolving billing disputes and approving carrier invoices for payment.
- Updates routing information and rate database. Interfaces with Logistics, Finance and International/domestic carriers.
- Processes Global freight billing & freight rates; carrier invoices for payments if rejected by 3rd party freight payment company.
- Settles rate & billing disputes w/ carriers. Applies accurate general ledger codes to freight invoices. Applies reclasses, as needed, weekly. Maintain and update carrier master files, including carrier contracts and rate schedules. Update freight rates to third party freight payment company and post audit provider. Analysis & Reporting Develop trend analysis by category/lane.
- Provide historical data/trend analysis to support chain initiatives and RFQs as needed. Update Logistics freight cost spreadsheets. Create/ update/maintain Excel spreadsheet of all freight bills approved for payment Maintain filing system for all freight related files

Job Specific Requirements:
Knowledge of transportation industry particularly Freight billing payment technology and processes. Candidate should be achievement oriented, possess excellent planning and organization skills, teamsmanship and interpersonal skills. Excellent English written and oral communication skills a must!

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
B.S. in Logistics, Accounting or related studies with 1-2 years experience in freight billing/auditing.

FINANCIAL ANALYST 2 (OSJROHQ-6)

- Prepares standard monthly journal entries. Analysis and amortization of mask prepaid Analysis of direct margin by family.
- Prepares account reconciliation and maintains Oracle allocation tables and Accounting for Kit Inventory
- Reviews and analysis departmental spending and reviews transfer prices.

Job Specific Requirements:
Working knowledge of Oracle allocation system. Teamwork, Achievement Oriented, Planning and Organization, Interpersonal, Communication, Customer Oriented. Excellent English written and oral communication skills a must!

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
BS/BA in Accounting or Finance. Minimum of two years. Public accounting experience or two to three years in Semiconductor Industry as an Accountant or Financial Analyst.

IT ENGINEERS, WEB DEVELOPERS, SOFTWARE ENGINEERS (ELWROHQ-7)

Job Specific Requirements:
Thorough practical understanding of CS principles. Specialized programming skills & proficiency in C, Java and Embedded SQL. Development experience in Oracle is required. Knowledge in Web Development and Design.
Past work experience in Ingress will be a plus. Good knowledge of structured software design. Good Domain Knowledge in Manufacturing, Planning and Sales/Marketing areas for Semiconductor Industry.

Minimum Education & Work Experience:
Bachelor's Degree (BE/B.Tech) in Computer Science. 2 to 5 years minimum experience in Software development field with C, Java, Linux/Unix and Databases programming.

Candidates must be willing to travel and work in the night shift

Interested applicants are requested to submit their resumes (in word format) to: rohq-sscjob@cypress.com

or mail to:
T.F.Tongco Human Resources Director (+Job Code)
Cypress Semiconductor Philippine Headquarters, LTD.
Regional Operating Headquarters
2nd Flr. Net One Center 26 Th St. Cor. 3rd Ave. Crescent Park West, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig City Metro Manila Philippines
visit us at www.cypress.com

Please indicate job code.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Replacement of Two (2) Central Chillers and Rehabilitation of the Centralized Airconditioning System of the DBP Head Office Building	**P42,000,000.00**

Schedule of Activities

Particulars	Date	Venue
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of April 20, 2005 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of the Eligibility Requirement Documents	April 20, 2005 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders	April 21-26, 2005	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	April 27, 2005 (Wednesday) at 9:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building Makati City
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 of May 18, 2005 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals	May 18, 2005 (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building Makati City

Application for eligibility check is open to central chillers suppliers who have supplied/delivered and installed Central Chillers/Centralized Airconditioning Systems for not less than five (5) years and organized under the laws of the Philippines and must be 75% owned by citizens of the Philippines. Interested parties may download the eligibility requirement checklist at **www.devbankphil.com.ph** and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Eligible bidders may secure the bid documents from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php20,000.00.**

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8126375/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 20 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works : Construction and Development of two (2) Linear Parks at the DBM and PUP compounds along Pasig River

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB towards the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for DBM Linear Park Project and PUP Linear Park Project
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract packages:

Contract Package	**Construction and Development of the DBM North Linear Park**	**Construction and Development of the PUP Linear Park**
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-21	EPA-LPP-22
Area	2,749.13 sq.m.	3,357.00 sq.m.
Location	Department of Budget and Management (DBM), San Miguel, Manila	Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Sta. Mesa, Manila
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days	
Project Description	Construction and development of linear park/promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work, Site improvement, Paving/Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage, Landscaping/Softscape, Canteen, Garbage House, and Fountain	Construction and development of linear park/ promenage which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work/Earthworks, Site improvement, Paving/Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage/Plumbing, Landscaping/Softscape, and Canteen

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity		Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00		From Mar. 21 to April 4, 2005	From 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM	PRRC 2F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents		From Mar. 21 to April 4, 2005	From 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Site Inspection	DBM North Linear Park	April 21, 2005	10:00 AM	DBM, San Miguel Manila	
	PUP Linear Park	April 22, 2005	11:00 AM	PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila	
Pre-Bid Conference	DBM North Linear Park	April 21, 2005	10:00 AM	DBM, San Miguel Manila	Right after the Site Inspection
	PUP Linear Park	April 22, 2005	11:00 AM	PUP, Sta. Mesa, Manila	Right after the Site Inspection
Deadline for submission of Bids	DBM North Linear Park	May 4, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submited after 10 AM) shall not be accepted
	PUP Linear Park	May 5, 2005	10:00 AM		
Opening of Bids	DBM North Linear Park	May 4, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
	PUP Linear Park	May 5, 2005	10:00 AM		

4. The Department of Budget and Management shall be the implementing agency of the DBM Linear Park Project and the Polytechnic University of the Philippines shall be the implementing agency of the PUP Linear Park Project.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation, and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
Email Adress: prrc@tri-sys.com
Fax No. 926-5234

(PDI - March 20 & 27, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
SOUTHERN MINDANAO INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Lanang, Davao City
Tel/Fax: (082) 300-1895 / e-mail: smiczmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

March 13 and 20, 2005
Contract No: SMICZMP-RPFC-03

1. The Government of the Philippines has received an ODA Loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the JBIC, in the amount of 3,201 Million Yen toward the cost of the Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (loan agreement signed 10 September 1998), and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, hereinafter "the Employer," intends to have eligible contractors for the construction and completion of the following component under this project, as follows:

   Project Title: River Protection/Flood Control Project – Package 3

   Scope of Work: Contract calls for the construction of the following data as specified on the table below:

ITEM DESCRIPTION	PROJECT LOCATION
Construction of 2 units of Check Dam	Malandag, Malungon, Sarangani Province
Construction of 3 units of Siltation Dam	Kablacan, Maasim, Sarangani Province
Construction of 142 meters Gabion Revetment	Bianan, T'boli, South Cotabato
Construction of 2 units of Spur Dike	Bianan, T'boli, South Cotabato
Construction of 2 units of Check Dam	Magsaysay, Polomolok, South Cotabato
Construction of 384 meters Gabion Revetment	Koronadal Proper, Polomolok, South Cotabato
Construction of 290 meters Gabion Revetment	Buayan River Mouth, Buayan, General Santos City

3. Application for eligibility and to bid is open to all firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from local competitive bidding, in accordance with the Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain further information and acquire the eligibility documents starting March 14 to 23, 2005 by calling, writing, faxing, or telexing or by electronic mail: Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (SMICZMP) Project Management Office, Door 3, Felbet's Bldg., Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City, Philippines, Telefax No.: (082) 300-1895; E-mail: smiczmp@hotmail.com or Project Management Office (Home Office Support Unit) – Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (SMICZMP), 2nd Floor FASPO Building, DENR Compound, Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City, TeleFax No.: (02) 928-1225.
5. The request must clearly state "Request for Eligibility Documents for the Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project – River Protection/Flood Control – Package 3: SMICZMP-RPFC-03". The documents are available for a nonrefundable fee of P3,000.00. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
6. The minimum requirement to be eligible is to have a.) Successfully carried out successful experience as prime contractor in the execution of at least three projects of the same nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract, within the last 5 years; b) Average annual turnover as prime contractor over the last five years of P110.0 million; and c.) Registered under Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum category of "AAA: and Classification and Registration of Large "B" in GENERAL ENGINEERING – 2 (GE-2, Irrigation and Flood Control).
7. Applications must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

   Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project
   Project Management Office,
   Door 3, Felbet's Building, Km. 7, Lanang, Davao City, Philippines
   not later than 5.00 PM of 14 April 2005

   and be clearly marked:

   "Application for Eligibility and to Bid for Southern Mindanao Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project – River Protection/Flood Control – Package 3; SMICZMP-RPFC-03"
8. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
9. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures eligible under this procedure will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MARIO C. DUAVES**
BAC - Chairman
Chief, Legal Division/DENR-Region XI

(PDI - March 13 & 20, 2005)

Invitation for Bids

FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, Inc.

Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines

Acquisition of Medical Equipment for the Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal

1. The Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) has received a grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) for the **"Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center in the Philippines"**
2. The construction of the facility is now complete and it is comprised of six operating rooms, one large general clinic, seven specialty clinics and three diagnostic and laser treatment rooms. The Sentro is envisioned to served more than 50,000 patients for consultation per year and about 5,000 surgeries annually.
3. FECFI now invites sealed bids for the **Acquisition of Medical Equipment for the Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal.**
4. Bidding will be conducted through open international competitive bidding
5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc. (FECFI) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon sending a written application through the fax number below. The document can be picked up at the FECFI office and/or sent by e-mail to the bidders.
7. Bids must be delivered at the address below on or before April 28, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of no less than 30,000 US Dollars or an equivalent amount in Philippines Peso. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who will opt to attend the bidding at the address below on April 28, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Marita V.T. Reyes
President
Filipinas Eye Center Foundation, Inc.
Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal Building
Philippine General Hospital Compound
Taft Avenue, Manila
00-63-2-404-37 - 38 (Direct Line) 00-63-2-400-01 - 20 (Telefax)
fecfi@i-manila.com.ph

(PDI - March 13 & 20, 2005)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BAGUIO

Governor Pack Road, Baguio City, Telefax: (074) 442-3888 / 442-3484
Website: www.ppb.edu.ph Email: bac@upb.edu.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The U.P. Baguio, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project: SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF LIBRARY SECURITY SYSTEM	Project: SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF (19) units LABORATORY TABLES
Location: UP BAGUIO MAIN LIBRARY	Location: COLLEGE OF SCIENCE COMPLEX BUILDING, UP BAGUIO
Brief Description 1. Detection System: (1) Set Ellipse System, Single Aisle (2-Antennas); Electronic Magnetic (EM) System 2. Activator / Deactivator: Counter top 3 Accessories: EM Strips for Books, CD's, Video (VHS) tapes, and Audio tapes Includes the design and installation, system training, after-sales services/support, and warranty.	Brief Description: Dimension: 4.0m (L) x 1.0m (W) x 0.9m (H) Table top: FIBERGLASS, ACID-RESISTANT & THERMAL-RESISTANT TOP with Reagent Rack (off-white color), Epoxy-coated base wooden panel assembly with Adjustable leveler; Features: 16-Base cabinet with one (1) swing door; Fixture: (4) Electrical outlets 220VAC; (2) Florescent Light 40 watts; Including delivery, hoop-up materials, positioning electrical works and installations, Canopy hood, motor blower, and duct works; with warranty
Approved Budget for the Contract: P1,500,000.00	Approved Budget for the Contract: P2,033,000.00
Delivery Period: 30 days	Delivery Period: 30 days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post Evaluation of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particular relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding conference (2), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities Schedule	Schedule
1 Issuance of Bid Documents (obtained from the SPMO c/o Mr. Jun Movilla)	- March 14-25, 2005
2 Preparation of Bids	- March 14-April 08, 2005
3 Pre-Bid Conference (9:00 AM, at Chancellor's Conf. Rm.)	- March 30, 2005
4. Submission and Opening of Bids (Bids must be received not later than 8:30 AM at the Chancellor's Office. Opening of Bids at 9:00 AM at the Chancellor's Conf. Rm)	- April 11, 2005
5 Bid Evaluation and Post-qualification	- April 11-15, 2005
6. Notice of Award	- April 18, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the UP Baguio Cashier. The UP Baguio reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose proposal is deemed the most advantageous to the University

(Sgd.) **BIENVENIDO C. MARZAN**
Vice Chancellor for Administration-BAC Chairman

(PDI-March 13 & 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Quezon City

Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

ISBELA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ISELCO II)

Alibagu, Ilagan, Isabela

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Isabela

Starting Salary : P35,000.00

Application form and additional information may be obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 05 April 2005.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

(PDI - March 20 & 21, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

PILOT RURAL ELECTRIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE PROVINCES OF PALAWAN, EASTERN SAMAR, AGUSAN DEL SUR AND ILOILO- ANTIQUE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to Section 59 of the "Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001" or "EPIRA," Rule 14 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of EPIRA ("EPIRA-IRR"), and the Department of Energy (DOE) Circular No. DC 2004-06-006 dated 18 June 2004 prescribing the qualification criteria for the Qualified Third Parties (QTPs), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank has provided financing support to the DOE through the Rural Power Project (RPP) which aims to implement the envisioned reforms and priority investments in the rural power sector to meet the needs of rural communities for adequate, affordable and reliable energy services in an efficient and sustainable manner.

The RPP seeks to increase the participation of non-public entities or QTPs in the provision of electricity services in remote and contiguously-located villages that franchised distribution utilities are unable to service. Specifically, to be piloted under the RPP is the "market package" concept where clusters or contiguously located villages will be served and managed through a single management team. Investment in any type of power supply technology will be supported; however, the use of renewable energy technologies, such as mini-hydro, may receive technical assistance. Appropriate level of subsidies is planned to be available to support the projects. Eligible QTPs may be provided access to loans from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

Towards this end, the DOE is inviting all interested private entities; including non-government organizations (NGOs), cooperatives, to submit to the DOE their respective **expressions of interest** (EOI) to serve the following market package areas;

1. Palawan covering **33** barangays from the Municipalities of El Nido (Bacuit), Roxas, San Vicente and Taytay.
2. Eastern Samar covering **18** barangays from the Municipalities of Arteche, Dolores, and Oras.
3. Agusan del Sur covering **17** barangays from the Municipalities of Bunawan, La Paz, San Luis, Sibagat, Talacogon and Veruela.
4. Iloilo and Antique covering **13** barangays from the Municipalities of Calinog, Janiuay, Laua-an, San Remigio and Sibalom.

Interested parties may obtain relevant data and information on results of the pre-investment and other related studies undertaken by the DOE through contact persons shown below.

The DOE would likewise accept any proposal to serve other unelectrified barangays that have been declared open by the concerned distribution utilities for private sector participation. As a guiding principle, the QTP must be capable to build, own, operate and maintain the power generation facility and electric distribution system based on the agreed terms and conditions with the franchised distribution utility, duly approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). The DOE and ERC are currently collaborating on the development of the necessary guidelines for QTP participation in missionary electrification.

The EOI must reach the following address on or before **30 April 2005** through:

Ms. Mylene C. Capongcol
Project Director, Rural Power Project
Director III, Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
4/F, PNOC Building No. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila

For any questions about the program or this announcement, please contact:

The Project Management Office-Rural Power Project
Rural Electrification Administration and Management Division (REAMD)
Electric Power Industry Management Bureau
4/F, PNOC Building No. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone No. +(63)(2) 840-5593

Look for any of the following:

1. **Mr. Noel D. Binag**
   Division Chief, REAMD
2. **Ms. Alicia A. de Guzman**
   Supervising Science Research Specialist
   Rural Electrification Promotion Section, REAMD
3. **Mr. Gabriel S. Zamudio**
   Senior Science Research Specialist
   Rural Electrification Promotion Section, REAMD

(PDI--March 20, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 03-11-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested contractors in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project : Comprehensive Service Maintenance Agreement for Computers, Printers, Scanners and other related equipment
Contract Duration : Two (2) years
Approved Budget : Eight Million Five Hundred Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred & 00/100 Pesos (P 8,544,800.00)
Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from March 15, 2005 to April 8, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Four Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Two Pesos & 40/100 (Php 4,272.40).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : March 29, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission of Bids : April 11, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Opening of Bids : April 11, 2005 (2:00 pm onwards)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government *(R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).*

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC 3

(PDI - March 20 & 27, 2005)

CDC
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Clark Development Corporation (CDC)
is urgently in need of applicants for the

MARKETING MANAGER

position

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. High or above average academic qualifications as a graduate of a four (4) year baccalaureate degree, preferably with an MBA degree or at least 18 MBA units from a reputable College/University;
2. At least seven (7) years professional working experience in corporate and marketing functions, preferably in property and real estate industry, of which at least three (3) years are at the management level with leadership and governance role and accountability over a department/team;
3. Strong charisma and interpersonal skills including proven capacity for initiative, focused persistence, diplomacy, effective communication, maturity of judgment, logical and emphatic processes and analytical and practical orientation, all towards planning, organizing, leading and controlling marketing programs, projects and tasks;
4. Capacity to deliver high quality work and results under pressure; capability and willingness to travel; preferably with industry contacts and network; and, able to align and integrate as a teamplayer within the corporate structure and culture.

HRD will accept applications from **March 28** to **April 8, 2005.**

Interested applicants may submit the following to the Human Resources Department Planning and Placement Section, Bldg. 2127, 3rd Floor cor. E. Quirino and C.P. Garcia Sts., Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga:

1. Bio-data with 2"x2" pictures
2. Diploma/Transcript of Records
3. Certificates of Employment
4. Certificates of Training
5. Barangay and Police Clearances

For more inquiries,
please call (045) 599-9000 loc. 533 and/or 535

LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (LEYECO III)

Tunga, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc., invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various Electric Materials for the first and second quarter for year 2005. Said electrical materials are specified hereunder, are to be delivered at LEYECO III plant site.

Bolt, Carriages 3/8 x 4 1/2"=100 pcs; Bolt, Machine 5/8 x 10=200 pcs; 5/8 x 16"=100 pcs & ½ x 6"=10 pcs; Bolt, Oval 5/8 x 10=100 pcs; 5/8 x 16=20 pcs & 5/8 x 18"=23 pcs; Brace Steel 28"=12 pcs & 60"=12pcs, Capacitor, 50 & 75 KVAR-MS Brand, GE=3 units each ; Clamp, Hot Line #1/0=12 pcs; Strain #4=30 pcs ; 3 bolt =100pcs ; Loop Dead End # 2-# 4/0=100 pcs ; Clevis, Secondary Swinging w/o Spool=50pcs; Connector, Compresion # 1/0=30pcs ; Cross-Arm 3 1/2 x 4 1/2 x 8"=6pcs ; 3 3/4 x 4 3/4 x 10"=6pcs & 4" x4"x8", Wood =50 pcs; Guy, Attachment 5/8 x 16"=14pcs. ; Insulator, Pin Type, 53-A=200pcs.; Suspension 6"=100pcs ; Spool 3"=15pcs.; Fuse Link, 100pcs per rating, 10 A; 15 A ; 25 A; 30 A ; 40 A ; 6 A ; 60 A ; 75 A & 8 A ; Meter, KWH, 1-Ph 2w,240V, 10(30)A 1,000pcs ; Nut, Eye=30 pcs ; Pin, Pole Top 200pcs ; Pole, (Wood), 25"=80pcs. ; 30'=65pcs ; 35'=15pcs ; 40"=5pcs ; 45' 6 pcs ; Rod, Armor, Double Support 1/0=6pcs ; Single Support 1/0=36pcs; Strap, Steel (wrap type) 8"Diam.=12pcs ; Screw, Log 1/2 x 4" galv.=200pcs ; Transformer, 15 kVA, CSP 5 units ; 37.5 KVA, Double Bushing=5 units ; & 50 KVA, Double Bushing=3 units ; Wire, Jumper, Aluminum 3-strand=60 meters; Bolt Carriages 1/2 x 4 1/2"=100pcs.; Bolt Double Arming 5/8 x 18"=100 pcs ; Bracket Secondary=50 pcs.

SPECIFIC DATES OF UNDERTAKING

Date of Publication	March 20, 27 & April 02, 2005	
PRE-BID Conference	April 11, 2005 Monday	LEYECO III Conference Room
OPENING OF BIDS QUOTATIONS	April 26, 2005 Tuesday	LEYECO III Conference Room

Mode of Payment

1. Transformer, Capacitor, KWH meters & Poles	Consignment basis 30 days upon withdrawal from warehouse
2. Other Materials	Cash basis

Interested Suppliers to join this bidding are advised to submit accreditation requirements from date of this publication until April 10, 2005 address to the chairman of Accreditation Committee. Eligibility and Bid forms tender documents can be obtained from PBAC Secretariat at LEYECO III OFFICE, upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during the Pre-Bidding conference.

The bids and awards committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or formally therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd) **RODRIGO L. VALLERAMOS**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 20, 27 & April 2, 2005)

MERCER
Human Resource Consulting

Mercer Human Resource Consulting is the world's leading employee benefits, remuneration and human resources consulting firms. With some 13,500 employees, Mercer has offices in more than 127 cities and 40 countries worldwide.

Stay Competitive. Bridge Your Performance GAPS!

March 31-April 01, 2005
Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati City

Fee per participant:
Php 15,000.00
*[illegible] March 21, 2005

Contact: Ms. Blessie Floquiato
Mercer Human Resource Consulting
19th Floor Citibank Center
Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Philippines 1200
Phone (632) 810-0704/05
Fax (632) 810-2242

S.C.O.R.E. it! Bridging Performance Gaps

Course Overview:

When employees do not perform well, there are usually a number of reasons. The S.C.O.R.E. model provides easy to follow yet effective steps in addressing performance problems. The S.C.O.R.E. model offers tools that can be independently used to address performance problem at any level.

You will learn to:

- identify performance gaps
- pin down root causes
- select the right intervention
- design implementation matrix
- evaluate and measure outcomes

Who Should Attend?

- Team Leaders
- Supervisors
- Line Managers
- anyone responsible in setting and achieving targets

Expected Output:

You will design your own continuing improvement matrix using the S.C.O.R.E. model

UPCOMING SEMINARS :

- **Sales Effectiveness – April 13**
- **Sales Incentive Design – April 20- 21**
- **Training Dept. to Strategic Partners – April 27-29**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
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ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
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ATILANO J. PINPIN

May 11, 1923 - March 13, 2005

*It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of our dear and loving **Tatang**, who peacefully joined his Creator on March 13, 2005.*

In loving memory from his children and their families.

We deeply appreciate the many heartfelt expressions of love and support from relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at Good Shepherd Memorial Park, MacArthur Highway, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

MARCELA ARRIETA REYES

Retired Director, Civil Service Commission

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 17, 2005 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved brothers and sisters **Carmen, Gregorio, Luis** and **Amelia**, in-laws, nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends request that prayers be offered for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

JOSE C. CHAN

Who passed away last February 28, 2005 in the Grace of our Lord, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your presence, prayers, flowers, donations and other expression of sympathy. We were greatly consoled by your act of kindness during our time of sorrow.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

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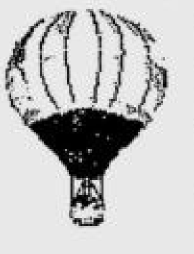
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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
San Juan, La Union

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR TRUCKING/HAULING SERVICES

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)** invites all interested Trucking/Hauling Operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of Trucking/Hauling Services for 2005 NFA Imported Rice covering the following specific routes:

A. From La Union Staging Warehouses to the different warehouses in Region I.

Prov.	Lot No	Receiving Whse.	DIK	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Load/Capacity Reqmt.	Approved ABC
Abra	1	Bangued	138	7,300	1	400	111,836.00
Benguet	2	Kadiwa Whse.	68.5	95,200	7	2,100	1,570,800.00
I. Sur	3	Chua Whse.	60.1	14,600	2	800	103,368.00
I. Sur	4	Sta. Maria Whse.	91.7	11,000	2	800	118,030.00
I. Norte	5	Laoag GID	214	43,900	5	2,000	948,679.00
		Total		172,000			2,852,713.00

B. From Pier to the different warehouses in Region I.

Prov.	Lot No	Receiving Whse.	DIK	Volume (bags)	Trucking Reqmt. (No.)	Load/Capacity Reqmt.	Approved ABC
Benguet	6	Loakan GID	75.5	18,300	7	2,100	P301,950.00
I. Sur	7	Tagudin FLGC	54.9	6,800	1	400	43,656.00
E. Pang.	8	Rosales I	99.4	51,300	7	2,800	596,619.00
	9	Rosales II	99.4	18,300	3	1,200	212,829.00
	10	Binalonan TX	71.4	40,300	4	1,600	336,505.00
		Total		135,000			1,491,559.00
GRAND TOTAL				307,000			P4,344,272.00

Trucks/units of prospective bidders must be classified as "Trucks-for-Hire". Trucking/Hauling Operators may bid in any or all specified/preferred destinations.

The Schedule of Bidding activities as follows:

Activities	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements, Bidding Documents	March 14-29, 2005 (8.00 AM-5:00 PM)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	March 30, 2005 (10:00 AM)
3. Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals (Opening of Bids will follow immediately)	April 12, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the RBAC Secretariat after payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of P5,000.00

The pre-bid conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at the NFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NFA Office Building, San Juan, La Union. All Trucking/Hauling Operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Interested bidders who are not NFA-accredited Trucking/Hauling Operators and/or whose registration had already expired may still participate provided they shall apply for accreditation/renewal at NFA Region I not later than March 29, 2005.

The eligibility of prospective bidders shall be determined using simple "Pass/Fail criteria and shall be considered as either "eligible" or "ineligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Passed" for all the requirements, he shall be considered "eligible". If the prospective bidder is rated "Failed" in any one of the requirements, he shall be considered ineligible.

A single stage bidding will be adopted using a simple pass/fail criteria for the evaluation. The prospective bidders shall sumbit simultaneously three (3) envelopes, one containing the eligibility requirements and two (2) envelopes containing bidding documents. Contents of each of the bid envelopes are specified in the Instructions to Bidders.

Eligibility criteria includes among others that the value of the prospective bidders largest contract within the last three (3) years, adjusted to current prices, completed within the period and similar to the contract to be bid at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman Ruben S. Rimando or RBAC Secretariat Ms. Gloria Dacian at the Regional Office 01, San Juan, La Union or at Tel. Nos. (072) 242-59-09 or (072) 700-25-79.

(Sgd.) RUBEN S. RIMANDO
Asst. Regional Director and RBAC Chairman

(PDI – March 13 & 20, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	CONTRACT DURATION
1. DRUGS & MEDICINES	Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union	Purchases of Drugs & Medicines, Medical / Surgical, Laboratory Supplies and Reagents, Laboratory Reagents w/tie-up equipments, Dental, X-Ray and Ortho for LUMC and District Hospitals	P 11,079,169.78	180 CD
2. MEDICAL / SURGICAL			P 5,247,622.50	180 CD
3. LABORATORY SUPPLIES AND REAGENTS			P . 1,877,816.00	180 CD
4. LABORATORY REAGENTS W/ TIE-UP EQUIPMENTS			P 1,300,000.00	180 CD
5. DENTAL			P 135,925.00	180 CD
6. X-RAY			P 696,698.00	180 CD
7. ORTHO			P 60,000.00	180 CD

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities		Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents		March 21, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference		March 28, 2005, 9.00 A.M.
3. Opening of Bids	a. Drugs & Medicines	April 6, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
	b. Medical/Surgical	April 7, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
	c. Laboratory Supplies and Reagents	April 8, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
	d. Laboratory Reagents w/ tie-up equipments	April 8, 2005, 9:00 A.M.
	e. Dental	April 8, 2005, 1:00 P.M.
	f. X-Ray	April 8, 2005, 1:00 P.M.
	g. Ortho	April 8, 2005, 1:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation		April 11 to April 25, 2005
5. Post-Qualification		April 11 to April 25, 2005
6. Notice of Award		April 11 to April 25, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN
BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – March 19 & 20, 2005)

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Invitation for Tenders

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Land Reform (DLR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). One of the commitments of the Technical Support and Coordination Office (TSCO) of BIARSP is to provide DLR and other frontliners of the programme with a comprehensive institutional capacity-building investment.

Under this last phase of the programme, the TSCO saw the need to set up a Comprehensive Rural Enterprise Academy (CREA) which will serve as a platform where the delivery of training is combined with the production of capacity-building initiatives. It combines off-site and on-site activities in a mixed of provincial and regional set-up for a period of 4 months. The aim is to "produce" a batch of top-notch rural development coordinators who will be indispensable in the post-CARP future.

The development priorities that CREA intends to address include: entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills and functional skills. Hence, the BIARSP-TSCO is inviting qualified institutions to express their interest in developing training modules covering the 3 development priorities and delivering the said modules through off-site and on-site activities.

Minimum requirements for eligibility are as follows:

1. Must have an existing team of qualified personnel to manage and execute the expected outcomes;
2. Have a proven track record and expertise in the conduct of entrepreneurial and leadership skills;
3. Have a good working knowledge and understanding of agrarian reform and rural development;
4. Have the capability to adapt "non-academic" approach and learning methods with minimal use of Power Point slides;
5. Must be competent enough to enthuse participants;
6. Must be flexible and have the ability to adjust to constant changes in schedules.

The BIARSP-TSCO advises interested parties to seek more information (Terms of Reference) at the **Technical Support and Coordination Office** in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental **through e-mail** *(tsco@biarsp.org)*. Please get in touch with Ms. Helen Calumpang, CREA Coordinator at tel #s: (035) 255-5929-30; 255-8661; 422-7459. Our fax. # is (035) 422-7736.

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	QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
1.	2-Sty. W/ Attic H&L (w/ prkng) Lot-1, Amity St., Capitol Est.-2 C'monwealth (Nr. Ever Gotesco) L.A.-105 / F.A.-161	2,000,000
2.	2-Sty. H&L / # 10 Molave Dr-1 Nagkaisang Nayon, N'liches. (via Gen.Luis & Damong Maliit St.) LA-400 / FA-81 * W/ Lis Pendens	1,542,000
3.	H&L/# 269 M Aquino St. Bantat Rd, T Sora LA-120 / FA-191 (Nr. St Anthony Schl & NPC Subd)	1,700,000
	MAKATI CITY	**MIN BID**
4.	Condo Unit-2544,4/F,Bldg-25 Guadalupe Mansion,JP Rzl Extn. (w/ prkng)Nr MRT-Guadalupe/FA-67 20	1,828,000
	Brgy. Singkamas beside Mkti. Coliseum	
5.	*L-1 B-23/LA-282,Maskardo St	3,600,000
6.	*L-2 B-23/LA-315,Maskardo St * With Existing Case	4,023,000
	kingswood Twr.- P. Tamo cor. V. Cruz	
7	Condo -P'hse Unit-P2F,Twr-B 28th & 29th flrs. / F.A.- 154	7,207,200
8	Condo -P'hse Unit-P3F,Twr-B 26th & 27th flrs / F.A - 154	7,207,200
	CAVITE - Bacoor, Molino	**MIN BID**
	Springville Subdivision - Central Phase-2	
9	L-2 B-7, MB Villar Ave/ LA-140	987,200
10.	L-4 B-7, MB Villar Ave / LA-96	677,000
11.	L-8 B-7, MB Villar Ave / LA-96	677,000
12.	L-10 B-7, MB Villar Ave/ LA-96	677,000
13.	L-24 B-7,MB Villar Ave/LA-120	974,000
14.	L-3 B-3/LA-112 (infront of ClubHse)	790,000
	CAVITE	**MIN BID**
15.	3-Dr 2-Sty/Res'l Apt /Lot-15-A Rosalia Subd.,Habay. LA-152 FA-206-Nr SM Bacoor *W/ Lis Pendens	1,773,000
16.	L-16 B-1,Ph-1,Mla Southwoods Brgy C Baybay,Carmona/LA-1,224	6,577,000
	Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
	FAIRWAY LOTS	
17.	Lot-27 Blk -17 / L.A. - 628	3,147,000
18.	Lot-52 Blk -17 / L.A. - 1,130	4,294,000
19.	Lot-93 Blk -48 / L.A - 763	2,976,000
	NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
20.	Lot-09 Blk -37 / L.A - 672	2,016,000
21.	Lot-35 Blk -37 / L.A. - 687	2,061,000
22	Lot-67 Blk -48 / L.A - 506	1,518,000
	CAVITE- Naic, Brgy. Palangue	**MIN BID**
	Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
23.	Lot-6 Blk -18 / L.A.- 1,468	1,468,000
24.	Lot-5 Blk -19 / L.A. - 964	964,000
25	Lot-6 Blk -19 / L.A. - 1,194	1,194,000
26.	Lot-4 Blk -19-A / L.A.- 2,953	2,953,000
27.	Lot-10 Blk -19-B / L.A. - 2,245	2,245,000
	PASIG CITY	**MIN BID**
28	Condo -4BR, 5TB, Maid's Rm - Pkng /Unit-2802 AIC Gold Twr. Emerald Ave./ F.A.- 187 17 (near Robinsons & Poveda Schl)	6,900,000
	MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit	**MIN BID**
	North Merville Park-I Subd. (*w/ occupants)	
29	*L-1 B-14, J Cancio St/LA-186	190,000
30	*Lot-19 Blk -13-A / L.A -168	215,000
	MALABON – Hulong Duhat	**MIN BID**
31	H&L/# 8 Don Basilio Bautista Blvd , L.A -886 / F.A -847 40	6,200,000
	VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
	Near East Service Rd., Malinta Exit	
32	Lot / Lot-551-A-2-A-3, Pineda Compd, Bonifacio St /LA-1,114	2,241,000
33	3-Sty Bldg/ Lot-894-A-3,Manano Laurel Dr Paso De Blas/nr Fortune Vill -4 LA-463/FA-809 *W/ Lis Pendens	6,031,000
	CALOOCAN – Gracepark	**MIN BID**
34.	Lot-25 & 26 Blk -31, 2nd St LA-388 60- In bet 3rd & 4th Ave	4,300,000
	ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	**MIN BID**
35	L-20 B-17, Jerusalem St Ph-5 Brgy Uulan/LA-120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd)	332,000
36.	L-23 B-10, Cottonwood Hts. Bayugo /LA-266 (near Sumulong)	2,049,000
37.	L-21 B-2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA-355	2,734,000
38.	Lot-47 Blk-18,Park Ridge Est Ph -3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,058,000
39	L-17 B-1, Beverly St, Sta Barbara-1 Luxury Est,Mission Hills,Colaique/LA-1,021 (near Pines City)	4,102,000
	ANGONO RZL.- via Antipolo	**MIN BID**
40	L-6 B-2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est,Ph-3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA-540 (near Pines City)	2,096,000
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41.	Lot B-15, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
42	Lot B-16, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
43.	Lot B-17, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
44.	Lot B-18, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000

RESIDENTIAL

	BULACAN – Plaridel	MIN BID
	Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
45.	Corner, Lot-2 Blk-47, LA-355	1,242,500
46	Corner, Lot-13 Blk-7, LA-404	1,414,000
47	Corner, Lot-2 Blk-38, LA -411	1,438,500
48.	Inner, Lot- 25 Blk-8, LA -350	1,155,000
	BULACAN – Sta. Maria	**MIN BID**
	Brgy.Guyong, Sunrays Vill.-beside Delfi	
49.	Lot - 5 Blk. - 3 / L.A. - 70	210,000
	BULACAN - MALOLOS	**MIN BID**
50.	H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk-17,Desta Ave. cor. 1st St., Desta Hms Brgy Atlag. LA-515/FA-293 84 (near Sto Cristo Diversion Rd)	3,100,000
	LAGUNA-Cabuyao, Poblacion	**MIN BID**
51.	2-Sty H&L Unit-1 Bellbart Elsol Villas Thms L.A.-107 / F.A -85 *Near Mcdonalds & Wet Market	1,445,000
	TAGAYTAY CITY	**MIN BID**
	In between Sta. Rosa, Lag. short-cut & Aguinaldo Hway	
52.	Lot-8, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd Tolentino-West (over looking Taal Lake) Lot Area – 2,156 *W/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000
	TARLAC CITY	**MIN BID**
53.	Agro-Indl / Lot-3871-D,Sapang Maragul,Tibag /LA-10,001-near arch	3,315,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
	# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
54	Res'l. Lot 3-A-6 / LA-1,820 62	400,000
55	Res'l Lot 2-A / LA-2,535 36	1,388,000
56	2-Storey Residential / Lot-2-G N.L.A.-1,861 9 / F.A -138	4,022,000

COMMERCIAL

	MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
57.	Condo 5/F Millenium Plaza Mkti Ave cor Eduque St/FA-261 24	17,765,000
	MANILA	**MIN BID**
58.	2/F KP Twr ,CM Recto Ave cor Juan Luna St / FA-658	28,792,000
	PARANAQUE – San Dionisio	**MIN BID**
59	Lot-1-B & 1-C / Net LA-9,562 (back of SM & access beside Shell Stn) *W/ Lis Pendens	25,161,000
60	Comm'l Lot w/ Bldgs/ Lot 7-B Angelina Canaynay Ave/ LA-3,066 FA-1,460 (Across Evacom) *Portion Is on Lease (Subject to credit approval)	47,000,000
	QUEZON CITY	**MIN BID**
61.	Comm'l bldg/Lots 8&9 Blk-S-27 Timog Ave. LA-1,380-FA-1,500 (nr Unionbank Br & GMA-7 *On Lease	70,000,000
62.	Lot w/ W'hse # 185 Roosevelt Ave, San Francisco Del Monte L.A -5,641 / F.A -3,454 (Near Unionbank Br Del Monte) (Subject to credit approval)	140,000,000
63.	Lot w/ Warehse / # 138 Gen. Luis cor Pasacola Rd, Nagkaisang Nayon,N'liches / LA-49,504 FA-23,384 (Subject to credit approval)	300,000,000
	VALENZUELA CITY	**MIN BID**
64.	Ind'l Lot / Lot-2, 6-A, 4-A & B 3, 6-B-1 & 2, Maysan *No right of way* Net LA-12,516 (via Viongco St)	8,003,000
65	Warehse / Lot-13 Templanza St , Don Pedro Vill., Marulas L.A - 2,540 / F.A.- 3,314 (Near Savory Restaurant)	20,232,000
66	Ind'l Lot w/ 2 W'hses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot-1075-D-1-C, Plastic City # 6 T.Santiago St, Canumay-West LA-9,923 / FA-7,096	39,703,000
67.	Ind'l. Lot w/ W'hse. # 47 Maysan Rd.(nr Maysan Elem.Schl) LA-7,871 FA-7,040 (Subject to credit approval)	40,702,000
68	Ind'l Lot w/ Bldgs / Lot-382-C Plastic City Housing,Canumay L.A -25,798 / F.A -5,310 (Via T. Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts.) (Subject to credit approval)	51,000,000
	NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	**MIN BID**
	# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
69	Agri Lot /Lot-3-B/NLA-37,041	2,366,000
70	Comml. Lot w/ W'hse & Offc Lot-2-H/NLA-2,260 67/FA-580	5,098,000
	TAGUIG - Global City Fort Boni	**MIN BID**
	(Infront of Adidas Sports Camp)	
71.	Lot-3 Blk.-18 / L.A.- 1,643 (Subject to credit approval)	164,300,000
	TARLAC CITY – Town Proper	**MIN BID**
72	Lot-4-C, Rizal St / L.A.-759	8,093,000
73.	Lot-4-B,Rizal cor Panganiban Sts. / L.A - 1,102	11,752,000
	SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	**MIN BID**
74	Agri Lot w/ resl H&L,W'hse & Piggery/Lot-6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I Psd 4A-001202, Bo. Sampaloc TLA-101,038 65 / TFA-9,277 -near bridge (Subject to credit approval)	45,053,000

JUST BRING P20,000SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY. CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction

LOT

HOUSE and LOT FOR SALE with TITLE
Inclusive of: Guard House – Force Concrete With Coconut Business equipments and Water Pump / Warehouse
Location :Barangay San Josef Santa Cruz, Laguna
Size : 12,056 (square meters)
PRICE: 9 million (negotiable)
Contact : Dan Ramilo / Josie Ramilo
899-0611 / 0919-7608840

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

Proj.7 200m² 0922-8030850

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

RUSH ACROPOLIS P15M ONLY 300m² MORNING SUN 3BR 8894796;6475;6337601-03

Sale/Rent 3BR 3TB 1mqler Sanville Subd. 928-0672

•Sikatuna Vil. #81 Mahiyain• 9210255 9219967 9209822

SKTNA 16M Capitol 4.5M Scl 1M • 0917-8251059

Very Well Maintained Hse
Filinvest 1 Batasan Hills LA300m² FA447.75m² 2sty 4br4tb 2crgrge. high-end mtls. used P9M neg. SEE TO APPRECIATE • 0917-8997547

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL

1.3M Crestvew Homes 9424355 Rizal CP09217722900

★TAYTAY Hous&Lot 30% DP★ ★LIPAT AGAD 30mins frm★ Ortigas SM Mega 0917-6428542

SAN JUAN

2STRY 5CAR P6M nrGHILLS 5623531 / 0917-5272166

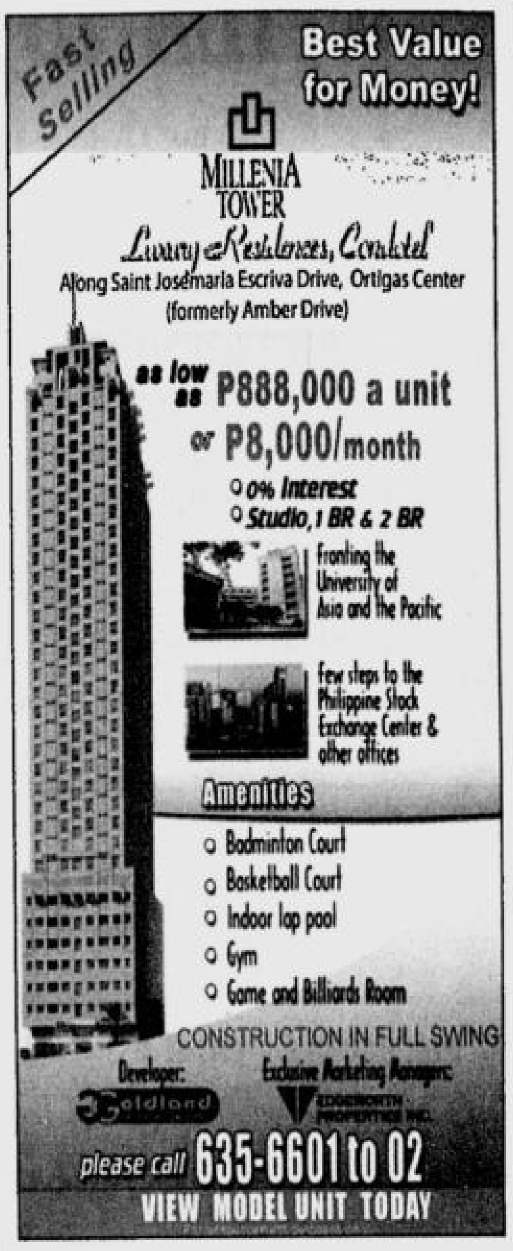
BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs (0920)9099843

•BAGUIO NR PMA• ROWHSE 400T/UNIT 8006667-09194209546

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE



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○ Indoor lap pool
○ Gym
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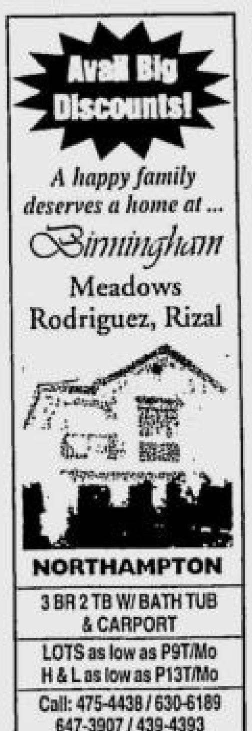
CONCORDE REALTY 419-5450 • WELCOME REALTY 413-3313

HOUSE & LOT

RIZAL



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AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Violy

P600K L-11 Blk-6 Regalia- West Subd, Bucandala-3, Imus 4 BR/ 2T&B Call (0922)803-2895

TAGAYTAY NEW HOUSE & LOT P3.5M ALSO AVAILABLE FARM LOT TEL#733-7767/69/73 (MON-SAT)

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198 90m² 5BR P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs (0910)8363670

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

E.A CAISIP REALTY
371-9180
371-9181
METROGATE VILLAS
Quezon City
3 BR; 3TB w/ CG
Maids Rm LA 128-155m²
SP = P4M to P5.3M
1322 GOLDEN EMPIRE TOWER, *MANILA*
4 BR Sunset Suites
FA = 299.18-300.46 m2
SP = P25.9M to P32M
3 BR Suites - 214 to 220 m²
SP = P15.1M to P20M
Comm'l - 53 to 326 m²
SP = P12.4M - P 76.8M
METROGATE SILANG, CAVITE
Lot Only - 120 - 300 sqm
P 774th - P1.4M
E.A. CAISIP REALTY

LAGUNA

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8313226

RENT TO OWN! CONDO nr. Fort & Makati 2-4BR Fully Secured 16K monthly & 50K DP Anne • (0920) 236-0929

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MKTI CNDO 2.8M Nr Rockwell RFO 2BR 2TB FA78m² w/pkg 0917-8991581

RENT 2 OWN B-NEW CONDO 2-4BR Finished, P12T mo. 0917-7469270 • 0916-2728898

RES. CONDO. 3M to 7M up cash/ terms, 1BR, 2BR, 3BR, W/PKG. LOC. MKT, QC, & ROXAS BLVD. T -750-8291/0927-7996662

RESORT TYPE CONDO 2-4BR 1.2M UP NR/FORT & ORTGS SEMI FUR COMPLT AMENT'S RENT 2 OWN & PG-IBG OK. 09206348545

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303865

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303865

THE COLUMNS Studio, 1br. 3M up 25K Reservation. Attractive terms. Viewing by appt. 0917-8997547

MANILA

Bnew T'hses nr DLSU-Taft Ave LA45-48Sm 1-2Car P4.7M UP 562-3531/0917-5272166

Frnt LaSalle Condo 6503977

Somerset Condo in Ayala Fully Furn w/1Parking CBD Area P4.5M 0927-9162585

•STA. MESA T'HSE• rdy to occupy nr D'Bosco 8006667-09194209546

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PARANAQUE

RUSH SALE Elysium Comp 3BR 4TB w/ Mds Rm 09189009342

PASIG

MGA Plaza 1.8M 30m² Studio 419-6573 • 0917-8251059

Alexandra 3br 3tb 0917-5213838

QUEZON CITY

2sty B/nw 7units 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9-5.3M 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

4.5M Tchers Vil 5BR5TB 50%DP 9319452/09209218422

5th Av Cubao Direct Buyers 09204122800/0915-4037299

CAYLABNE Cavite Beach Front Overlookng Corregidor Island 721-5288/0917-8909051 Gee

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB 4.2M AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY Panoramic View Pool 77m² 09184845443

Eastwood City Resd'l 5 Yr to Pay 0917-5213838

HIGHEST CONDO in QC 1&2br Penthse2.5-7M 09189235216

Parc Ave. Condo Two Storey 2BR 5th flr. Rm. 512 15th Ave. Cubao Q.C. 51.94sqm 1.6M T-453-7264 / (0920)543-1343 Call Mrs Nonato

Sct Tuazon condo 2M 4141709

PROVINCIAL

ROYALE TAGAYTAY LA915 FA200 P3.8M 09275222683

SAN JUAN

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

Classica Manor Studio RUSH! 1.7M Neg T253-0008

TAGUIG

CONDO@Global City RFO / Pre selling • Stud, 1-3br 3M-17M. TERMS AVLBLE. 0917-8997547 Jona

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2 sty Apt. 356 sqm 3333 Zapote cor Mancha P10M 6316936 / 6378080

MANILA

4 DOOR APT CALL MRS UMALI 7355102 7319839

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

AYALA SOUTHVALE-SONERA 500SQM up 0917-8997547

PILAR VILL. 280m²@5.5K/m² neg. Call/Txt 0917-8997547

MANILA

383m² V.Mapa Sta. Mesa P18T/m² 0927-5226353 721-3127

MARIKINA

•HACIENDA HTS.• MKNA A240m² 09194209546

Cinco Hermanos 300/600m² 15T /Neg 723-5888 0917-3395109

Tangerine St 1578m² 0917-5213838

PARANAQUE

Better Living 240sq.m P9T/sq.m Nego. Nr Comm'l Area Look For Oliver T746-0998 • 0921-4225002

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PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PATEROS

PATEROS 200m² H/L 5323936

PATEROS 599 m² 12T 5323936

QUEZON CITY

Metropoli Resd'l / Comm'l Libis 6414323 0919-7927249

FILINVEST 1 428m² corner P8,500/m² nr gate 953-3256

RESIDENTIAL nr UP Ateneo 204m² to 816m² P8,500/m² 09189235216

RIZAL

540m² along Felix Ave Cainta Direct Buyer Only Call Tess Parayno 780-1594

MRCOS Hway 30sqm 6503977

SAN JUAN

SAN JUAN Ver St. nr. Aquinas School P18M 0927-5226353 • 721-3127

OTHER AREAS

★TAGAYTAY OVERLOOKING ★10%DP 5yrs 0%Int. w/Free ★Membership Worth P425T ★0917-6428542 • Pls. Call

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

Ridgewood Tagaytay alng Main Road 6414323 0919-7927249

CANYONWOODS 352SQM W/VIEW TEL. 8509644 AFTER OFF. HRS

PACIFIC HEIGHTS TAGAYTAY OVERLOKING,COOL 5YRS NO INT 20% DOWN 09189339352

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For P400,000 — For as low as **P6,453** per month for 10 years

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Old Balara, Quezon City — GRANDWOOD VILLAS

TOWNHOUSE

L.A. 111 sqm.	P 1,215,000
L.A. 79 sqm.	P 1,300,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	P 1,925,000
L.A. 54 sqm.	P 2,500,000

Antipolo City — HILLS OF MAIA ALTA

HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 102 sqm.	F.A. 56 sqm.	P 850,000
L.A. 95 sqm.	F.A. 70 sqm.	P 950,000
L.A. 120 sqm.	F.A. 80 sqm.	P 1,200,000
L.A. 126 sqm.	F.A. 92 sqm.	P 1,600,000

Antipolo City — COTTONWOODS HIEGHTS

HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 203 sqm.	F.A. 116 sqm.	P 2,100,000
L.A. 266 sqm.	F.A. 136 sqm.	P 2,700,000
L.A. 340 sqm.	F.A. 147 sqm.	P 3,100,000
L.A. 404 sqm.	F.A. 168 sqm.	P 3,600,000

Antipolo City — BENTLEY PARK SUBD.

TOWNHOUSE

L.A. 229 sqm.	P 801,500
L.A. 246 sqm.	P 861,000
L.A. 276 sqm.	P 966,000
L.A. 265 sqm.	P 980,500

Dasmariñas, Cavite — LA MEDITERRANEA

HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 72 sqm.	P 900,000
L.A. 140 sqm.	F.A. 83 sqm.	P 1,260,000
L.A. 242 sqm.	F.A. 83 sqm.	P 1,476,000
L.A. 110 sqm.	F.A. 126 sqm.	P 1,600,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna — BELLE REYE

RESIDENTIAL LOT

530 sqm	P 3,000,000
637 sqm.	P 4,000,000
744 sqm	P 4,500,000
824 sqm	P 5,000,000

Sta. Rosa, Laguna — LA RESIDENCIA

RESIDENTIAL LOT

150 sqm.	P 900,000
232 sqm	P 1,300,000
150 sqm.	P 1,800,000
335 sqm	P 2,300,000

San Pedro, Laguna — LA MAREA

HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 135 sqm.	F.A. 78 sqm.	P 1,200,000
L.A. 128 sqm	F.A. 94 sqm	P 1,395,000
L.A. 181 sqm.	F.A. 167 sqm.	P 2,600,000
L.A. 573 sqm	F.A. 82 sqm	P 3,056,000

Las Piñas — BF RESORT EXEC. VILL.

HOUSE AND LOT

L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P 1,020,000
L.A. 150 sqm.	F.A. 68 sqm.	P 1,500,000
L.A. 100 sqm.	F.A. 60 sqm.	P 2,385,000
L.A. 240 sqm.	F.A. 395 sqm	P 5,960,000

CALOOCAN

RCBC1_SB007 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 50 sqm F.A. 40 sqm
B13 L4 Whispering Palms
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

RCBC1_SB011 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 153 sqm F.A. 70.18 sqm
20 Athens Vista Verde North
Min. Bid Price: P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB009 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 226 sqm F.A. 200 sqm
B4 L25 Pleasant View Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,450,000

RCBC1_SB206 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 99 sqm F.A. 100 sqm
B1 L1 Palmera Spring
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

RCBC1_SB010 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 216 sqm F.A. 175 sqm.
B1 L17 Hillcrest Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,250,000

LAS PIÑAS

RCBC1_SB169 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 105 sqm
B7-A L13, Revelation St.
CH - Classic., Almanza
Min. Bid Price: P 1,370,000

RCBC1_SB170 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 315 sqm F.A. 194 sqm
2 Uranium St., Camella Homes Classic IV
Min. Bid Price: P 2,550,000

RCBC1_SB173 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 148 sqm F.A. 180 sqm
No. 54 Minuet St., Sta. Cecilia Village, Talon Dos
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB174 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 238 sqm F.A. 112 sqm
No. 51, Dao Street, Pilar Village.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

RCBC1_SB367 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 298 sqm
Blk. 13 lot 13 St. Dominic cor. St., George St., Metrocor Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,192,000

MAKATI CITY

RCBC1_SB216 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 273 sqm FA 193 sqm
Pembo, Fort Bonifacio
Min. Bid Price: P 2,760,000

RCBC1_SB217 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 66 sqm FA 139 sqm
Madras St., Blk. 31 Lot 13B Palanan
Min. Bid Price: P 4,250,000

RCBC1_SB218 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 109 sqm FA 84 sqm.
Tejeros, 5124 Malolos St.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,610,000

MANILA

RCBC1_SB219 - CONDOMINIUM
FA 70 sqm
Empire Plaza Condo, Unit 1207
Min. Bid Price: P 5,380,000

RCBC1_SB220 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 113 sqm FA 73 sqm
08 Callejon St., Kristhoville Exec Homes,
Min. Bid Price: P 1,920,000

MARIKINA

RCBC2_SB012 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 420 sqm F.A. 310 sqm.
Twinville Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

RCBC1_SB209 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 360 sqm F.A. 565 sqm
#50 Sta. Ana Ext., San Roque
Min. Bid Price: P 5,960,000

RCBC1_SB210 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300m F.A. 91qm
B11 L7 Marikina Greenheights
Min. Bid Price: P [illegible]

MUNTINLUPA

RCBC2_SB014 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 154 sqm F.A. 135 sqm
L2 B12 Lakeshore Drive, Tunasan
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

RCBC2_SB016 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 312 sqm
L11 B53 Orchids St., South Greenhts Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC2_SB017 - COMM'L BLDG.
L.A. 766 sqm F.A. 585 sqm
247 Int. Montillano St., Alabang
Min. Bid Price: P 4,601,000

PASAY

RCBC1_SB221 - RSD'L LOT
FA 33 sqm
Blk. 17 Lot 06, Topaz St. Bo. San Jose
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB222 - RSD'L LOT
FA 47 sqm
Unit 1108, 11th Flr. Sen. 601 Gil Puyat, Buendia Tower
Min. Bid Price: P 1,720,000.00

RCBC1_SB223 - RSD'L LOT
FA 43.67 sqm.
Rom 603, 6th Flr. Buendia Towers
Min. Bid Price: P 2,090,000.00

PASIG CITY

RCBC1_SB226 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A. 106.587 sqm.
Unit 2105 Galleria Suites, Ortigas Area
Min. Bid Price: P 6,035,000

RCBC1_SB020 - CONDO 2 UNITS
F.A. 73.97 sqm/unit
Unit F-301 / F-302 Hampton Gardens, Maybunga
Min. Bid Price: P 2,750,000

RCBC1_SB021 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 30 sqm.
Unit L101-A-L101 OMM San Miguel Ave.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,940,000

QUEZON CITY

RCBC_LMF - HOUSE & LOT
SEMI COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL
WALKING DISTANCE TO LRT STATION
L.A. 300 sqm F.A. 250 sqm
36 BOSTON ST., CUBAO
Min. Bid Price: P 6,000,000

RCBC1_SB022 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 37.3 sqm F.A. 58.65 sqm
Unit 207-G South Triangle
Min. Bid Price: P 2,150,000

RCBC1_SB229 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 58.63 sqm F.A. 119 sqm.
15B L42 Unit2 West Fairview
Min. Bid Price: P 1,904,000.00

RCBC1_SB023 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm F.A. 150 sqm
B10 L1-A Buick Subd. Fairview
Min. Bid Price: P 1,715,000

RCBC1_SB026 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 325 sqm
L14 B26 J Fuentes Dr
1426 North Susana Exec Vill.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,080,000

RCBC1_SB230 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 126 sqm F.A. 192 sqm
Unit 5 #112 Pluto Carmel Subd. Proj 6
Min. Bid Price: P 3,258,800

RCBC1_SB231 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 458 sqm F.A. 200 sqm
B48 L11 Mustang St. Fairview
Min. Bid Price: P 2,060,000

RCBC1_SB033 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 212 sqm.
B15 L2 Marytown Circle, Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 2,300,000

RCBC1_SB027 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 73 sqm.
L8-D Jem 3 Subd. Bardal
Min. Bid Price: P 1,150,000

RCBC1_SB232 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 526 sqm
B11 L30 Fairview Park Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB029 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 60 sqm F.A. 100 sqm.
Unit 8 Adelfa 5 Park Townhomes
Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB030 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 376 sqm F.A. 642 sqm
23 Pinesville, Greenview Exec. Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 9,280,000

RCBC1_SB233 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 400 sqm F.A. 300 sqm.
19 Ponbac St. Fairview Park Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

RCBC1_SB034 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 79.3 sqm F.A. 108 sqm.
11 Camia DRJ Subd. Sauyo Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB238 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 120 sqm.
B26 L6 Goodwill Subd. San Bartolome
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB042 - TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 81.8 sqm F.A. 76 sqm.
Unit 9 Apo Comp TS
Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,000

RCBC1_SB239 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200 sqm F.A. 66 sqm
B22 L18 Lagro Subd. Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000.00

RCBC1_SB041 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 110 sqm F.A. 125.5 sqm.
#18 Angat St., Napocor Village TS
Min. Bid Price: P 830,000

RCBC1_SB024 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150.7 sqm.
L9 Merry Homes Fairview
Min. Bid Price: P 1,275,000

RCBC1_SB025 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 72.5 sqm.
L9-A-2 Dahlia Exec. Homes Fairview
Min. Bid Price: P 960,000

VALENZUELA

RCBC1_SB044 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 310 sqm F.A. 350 sqm
218 20th cor 19th St., Fortune Vill.5
Bgy. Parada
Min. Bid Price: P 4,530,000

RCBC1_SB045 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 247 sqm
233 20th St., Fortune Village
Min. Bid Price: P 2,660,000

RCBC1_SB242 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 244 sqm F.A. 120 sqm
#167 6th St., Fortune Vill.5
Brgy. Paso de Blas
Min. Bid Price: P 1,275,000

RCBC1_SB243 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 166 sqm F.A. 298.5 sqm.
#3 Little Baguio Manulas
Min. Bid Price: P 2,750,000

RCBC1_SB046 - COMM'L HIGH RISE BLDG
L.A. 949.8 sqm FA CALL US
203 McArthur Karuhatan
Min. Bid Price: P 18,640,000

RCBC1_SB244 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 215.8 sqm F.A. 258.7 sqm.
5043 Sto. Rosario Modesto St.,
Mapulang Lupa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,460,000

ANTIPOLO

RCBC2_SB056 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,415 sqm
L1 B14 Victoria Valley Subd., Mayamot
Min. Bid Price: P 3,800,000

RCBC2_SB258 - RSD'L CMPD.
L.A. 1,305 sqm F.A. 744 sqm
#27 Sunrise cor 4th Ave.
Beverly Hills Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 13,000,000

RCBC2_SB058 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,030 sqm
Mission Hills
Min. Bid Price: P 4,000,000

RCBC2_SB059 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 172 sqm F.A. 200 sqm
397 Dela Virgen St., San Isidro Poblacion
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

RCBC1_SB064 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,415 sqm
B14 L17 Victoria Valley
Min. Bid Price: P 3,860,000

RCBC1_SB065 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 170 sqm F.A. 60 sqm
B7 L7, 9 & 11 Loremar Exec.
Min. Bid Price: P 3,298,000

RCBC1_SB066 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 156 sqm F.A. 76 sqm
B7 L1 Crestview
Min. Bid Price: P 990,000

RCBC1_SB262 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 50 sqm F.A. 30 sqm
B15 L23 Woodrow
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

BULACAN

RCBC2_SB069 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 480 sqm
Eucalyptus St., Greenplans, Calumpit
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

RCBC2_SB070 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 2,471 sqm
Burol 1st, Balagtas,
Min. Bid Price: P 20,000,000

RCBC2_SB071 - IND'L WAREHOUSE
L.A. 845 sqm F.A. 809 sqm
RIS Industrial Complex, Mercado St. Guguinto
Min. Bid Price: P 6,200,000

RCBC2_SB074 - RESDL LOT
L.A. 5,497 sqm
Barrio Mabalo, Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P 5,500,000

RCBC2_SB075 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 204.26 sqm F.A. 110 sqm.
F. Estrella St., Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P 1,520,000

RCBC2_SB077 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 764 sqm F.A. 132 sqm.
Lot 67B Agnaya, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price: P 3,285,000

RCBC1_SB080 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,958 sqm
Lot 3004 C Camangyanan, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,420,000

RCBC1_SB078 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 45 sqm F.A. 23 sqm
569 Parulan, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

RCBC1_SB086 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 79 sqm F.A. 48 sqm.
L1087 Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 1,060,000

RCBC1_SB084 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 100 sqm
Cutcut Pulilan
Min. Bid Price: P 6,500,000

RCBC1_SB085 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 350 sqm F.A. 120 sqm
B2 L5 & L7 Violeta Metroville
Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,870,000

RCBC1_SB088 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,402 sqm F.A. 60 sqm
Sapang Palay, SJDM
Min. Bid Price: P 11,800,000

RCBC1_SB095 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,421 sqm
Camia cor. Everlasting Carissa Homes SJDM
Min. Bid Price: P 1,400,000

RCBC1_SB099 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,528 sqm F.A. 305 sqm.
229 Manatal Pandi
Min. Bid Price: P 5,960,000

RCBC1_SB276 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 207 sqm F.A. 60 sqm.
89 Sumapang Bata, Malolos
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

RCBC1_SB081 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,708 sqm F.A. 100 sqm
218 Lwasan San Vicente, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 2,500,000

RCBC1_SB087 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 285 sqm F.A. 78 sqm
147 Burol St., Bocaue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,200,000

RCBC1_SB279 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 259 sqm F.A. 160 sqm
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vil. Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

RCBC1_SB104 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm F.A. 140 sqm.
Sta. Rosa II, Marilao
Min. Bid Price: P 2,550,000

RCBC1_SB079 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 540 sqm F.A. 200 sqm
5056 Mary Grace Subd. Sto. Niño, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price: P 2,130,000

CABANATUAN

RCBC1_SB106 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 5,680 sqm F.A. 1,310 sqm
Lot 1396 D Sálayaoy, Cabanatuan
Min. Bid Price: P 13,500,000

CAVITE

RCBC2_SB308 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 231 sqm F.A. 130 sqm
Blk. 04 lot 23, Via Verde Village, Paliparan Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 1,620,000

ILOILO CITY

RCBC2_SB137 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,050 sqm
Divinagracia St., La Paz
Min. Bid Price: P 7,250,000

LAGUNA

RCBC2_SB330 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm F.A. 110 sqm
Pnoita Complex, no. 13 C.P. Garcia
Min. Bid Price: P 2,458,000

RCBC2_SB331 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 252 sqm. Fasqm 100
Lakeshore Homes Subd., #240 Rosal St., Sto. Domingo, Bay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,630,000

RCBC1_SB158 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 950 sqm FA 450 sqm
B8 L 4,5,6,&7 Don Miguel Subd., Pila
Min. Bid Price: P 5,800,000

RCBC1_SB333 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 190/298 sqm. FA 430 sqm
B3 L 31 & 32 Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang
Min. Bid Price: P 5,936,000

RCBC2_SB334 - RSDL & LOT
L.A. 150/220/174 sqm.
Blk. 21 lot's 33-35, Villa Esmeralda, San Lorenzo Village, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 2,607,000

RCBC1_SB339 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 837 sqm
L08 B03 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 5,410,000

RCBC1_SB340 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 738 sqm
L3 B12 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,805,000

RCBC1_SB341 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 875 sqm
L5 B5 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 5,570,000

RCBC2_SB143 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 575 sqm
L9 B13 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

RCBC1_SB344 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 271 sqm FA 150 sqm
Bo. Sinalhan Bo. Rd. Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

PAMPANGA

RCBC1_SB160 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 669 sqm F.A. 250 sqm.
B7 L2 Greenfields Country Club, San Fernando
Min. Bid Price: P 4,155,000

RCBC1_SB141 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 259 sqm F.A. 160 sqm
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vil., Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

CAINTA, TAYTAY, ANGONO, RIZAL

RCBC2_SB193 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 1,768 sqm.
Felix Ave., Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 17,000,000

RCBC2_SB194 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 1,318 sqm
Bgy. San Juan, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 13,200,000

RCBC2_SB296 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 116 sqm F.A. 202 sqm
Doña Nieves, Sto. Niño, Angono
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

RCBC2_SB198 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 264 sqm F.A. 495 sqm
3rd Street, St. Martin Subd., Angono
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC2_SB199 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm F.A. 148 sqm
Ridgemont Exec. Vill., San Isidro, Taytay
Min. Bid Price: P 2,000,000

RCBC2_SB200 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm F.A. 234 sqm
18 Sampaguita St., Aranzazu Subd., San Mateo
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC2_SB202 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm F.A. 232 sqm
L29 B5 Marvi Hills Subd., San Mateo
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

RCBC1_SB205 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 50 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm
Binangonan
Min. Bid Price: P 2,050,000

RCBC1_SB300 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 216 sqm F.A. 260 sqm
36 Oates St., Filinvest East Homes, Cainta
Min. Bid Price: P 1,860,000

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement among heirs of the estate of the late CONCEPCION ONG MENDEZ on March 10, 2004 entered as Doc No 168 Page No 33 Book II Series of 2004 of Notary Public Atty Allen Grace Q Villareal-Bermejo of Iriga City. (PDI-March 13, 20 &27,2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of CRISTETA T. RAZA has been extrajudicially settled w/waiver of share by her heirs before Notary public Juan Conrado A. Rospicio of Laoag City per Doc No. 330, Page No. 66, Book No. 145, Series of 2003 (PDI-Mar. 13, 20, 27, 2005)

PDI Leasing & Finance Certificate No. 16211-101,250 Shares; Certificate No. 15957-300,000 Shares under the name of VIRGINIA CHUA were declared lost. If no contest is received within 1 year new certificates will be issued. (PDI-March 20, 27 & April 3, 2005)

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NOTICE OF DECREASE OF THE AUTHORIZED CAPITAL STOCK OF AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION

NOTICE is hereby given that **AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION**, with principal office address at Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, has filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission an Amended Articles of Incorporation decreasing its authorized capital stock from TWO HUNDRED THIRTY MILLION PESOS (P230,000,000.00) to FORTY SIX MILLION PESOS (P46,000,000.00).

Parties opposed to the said amendment must file their written opposition with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This announcement shall serve as notice to all parties concerned of the legal amendment of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **AYALA AVIATION CORPORATION.**

(Sgd.) **RENATO O. MARZAN**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–March 20. 2005)

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6. Insert on Inquirer's March 30, 2005 issue.

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

IN RE : Petition for Issuance of Authority to Operate Non-Scheduled International Air Transportation Services)
TRANSGLOBAL AIRWAYS, CORP.)
Petitioner)
CAB CASE NO. 26695
x-----------------------------------x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **TRANSGLOBAL AIRWAYS, CORPORATION** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a Petition for Issuance of Authority to Operate Non Scheduled International Air Transportation Services docketed as CAB Case No. 26695. The initial hearing on the above entitled case will be held on **28 March 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** in the CAB Conference Room of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner ishereby required to have this Notice of Hearing served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc. Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit, SEAIR, Inc. and Interisland Resorts and Services, Inc. either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be prepair under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

03 March 2005
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.**
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI – March 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Sanctuary from the streets

Help Virlanie in realizing for street children a new life and a bright future

PRINCESS Caroline is shown with one of Virlanie's over 300 wards on her RP visit last year.

THE STREET urchins who dot the alleys and byways of the metropolis have found a new home in the Virlanie Foundation, which runs 13 centers for street children in Metro Manila and Batangas.

Unique among aid organizations dealing with street children, Virlanie not only provides shelter to children from four years old up, but also rehabilitates them through educational, social, sports, medical, psychological and other services. Its programs are comprehensive and exhaustive. It could be said that Virlanie is a formative institution.

The man behind Virlanie is Frenchman Dominique Lemay. The former seminarian had worked for the Caritas (Catholic Charities) in France, particularly with problem youths involved in drug addiction and street crimes. He found the work frustrating because the young people were hostile, disrespectful and undisciplined. When his job took him to the Philippines in the 1980s, he had thought he would meet the same hostility and disrespect, but found instead children and youth eager to make him feel at home in their warm embrace and tender kindness.

Taken by the grace and hospitality of the young Filipinos and eager to work with street children, Lemay established Virlanie in 1992.

Virlanie's homes—12 in Metro Manila and a farm house in Batangas—are specialized homes catering to specific age brackets, gender, physical condition and physical circumstances. They have provided a sanctuary not only to young vagrants, but also to abandoned children, youth prostitutes, and victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

To date, Virlanie has ministered to 7,000 children. It has enjoyed wide acclaim here and abroad for its important work. The French government awarded Lemay the French Republic Human Rights Peace Prize in 2001. One of the staunch donors of the foundation is the Amade International, the humanitarian outfit of the late Princess Grace of Monaco. Last year, Princess Caroline, Grace's daughter, came to Manila to host a charity dinner for Virlanie.

With expanding programs to respond to the varied social welfare needs of young people, Virlanie is having difficulty coping with the hard times. The INQUIRER Lifestyle staff paid a visit to the 12 homes of the foundation in Makati and Manila to determine the immediate needs of the children. The stories below should impress readers with the significant work of the different Virlanie homes and the imperatives that must be satisfied to continue with the apostolate. It is hoped that in the spirit of Lent, readers would support Virlanie in helping young people waylaid by poverty and abuse to find the road back to a brighter future and a more fulfilling life.

Mother and Child Home

By Gibbs Cadiz

Top 5 needs:
15 pieces bed sheets
15 pieces pillows
15 pieces small plastic chairs
1 medicine cabinet
2 emergency lights/office tables

MOTHER and Child Home was set up by Virlanie Foundation to take care of homeless pregnant unwed mothers from 25 years old and below, and babies up to three years old.

The home, located in a rented three-story unit along Sunrise Avenue in La Paz, Makati City, currently has 14 wards—six mothers and eight toddlers—along with two house mothers, one house aunt, one project coordinator and one social worker.

There are also two Danish volunteers who conduct classes for mothers on makeup, massage, cooking, cosmetology and bead-making, as well as basic Math and English.

Because of limited space, Mother and Child's maximum capacity is 10 mothers. Pregnant women are taken care of for a minimum of six months, and after delivery, the center works to reunify them with family or relatives. In most cases, women are either homeless, without relatives in Manila, victims of sexual abuse or were driven out by their families due to unwanted pregnancy.

The center provides them free food, medicines and check-up fees, and shoulders all delivery charges. Women can work on outside jobs in the early months of pregnancy while staying at Mother and Child. Those who are unemployed are referred to potential employers after delivery.

For donations and inquiries, call Joanna Navarrete or Meldrid Malate at tel. 8908786 or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, or email virlanie@virlanie.org. Mother and Child Home is located at 5C Sunrise Avenue, La Paz Village, Makati City.

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Ella Yallah Home

By Cheche V. Moral

Top 5 needs:
- Clothes and underwear for ages 7-21 years old; and toiletries
- Bunk beds and folding tables
- Wall fans
- Beddings
- Refrigerator

"ATE, *ang gusto ko* [teddy] bear!" giggles Cocoy (not his real name).

The 9-year-old is small for his age, but his spirit more than makes up for what he lacks in size. When asked why he wants a teddy bear, he breaks into a shy grin and answers, "*Para po may katabi ako sa pagtulog.*"

Cocoy is the *bunso* (youngest) of the 21 wards of Ella Yallah (EY) Home, one of the centers of Virlanie Foundation Inc. EY aims to provide a loving home for children with histories of drug use, physical and sexual abuse, and in conflict with the law.

Many of these children, according to project coordinator Lanie Jamoralin, have previously been living on the streets or abandoned by their parents, like Cocoy and his brother.

Most of the EY wards attend regular school, with four in high school at present. One girl, the oldest at 22, is blind and attends the Philippine School for the Blind. One of the boys is mute as a result of a traumatic experience. One girl is set to be reunited with her mother soon.

At EY, lack of bedmates is actually the least of Cocoy's problems. In fact, he and his 12-year-old brother share with nine other boys the cramped third level of the brand-new apartment unit housing EY.

On the second level, the 10 girls' sleeping quarters are divided into two small rooms, adjacent to the tiny EY office. The ground floor is living, dining and kitchen areas in one, with one small room for the housemother and father in one corner.

EY has just recently transferred to this new location in Brgy. La Paz, Makati, and it's quite an improvement from its previous home—a dark, decrepit second level of a house located nearby. However cramped, the positive effect of the new home on the children, according to Jamoralin, has indeed been unquantifiable.

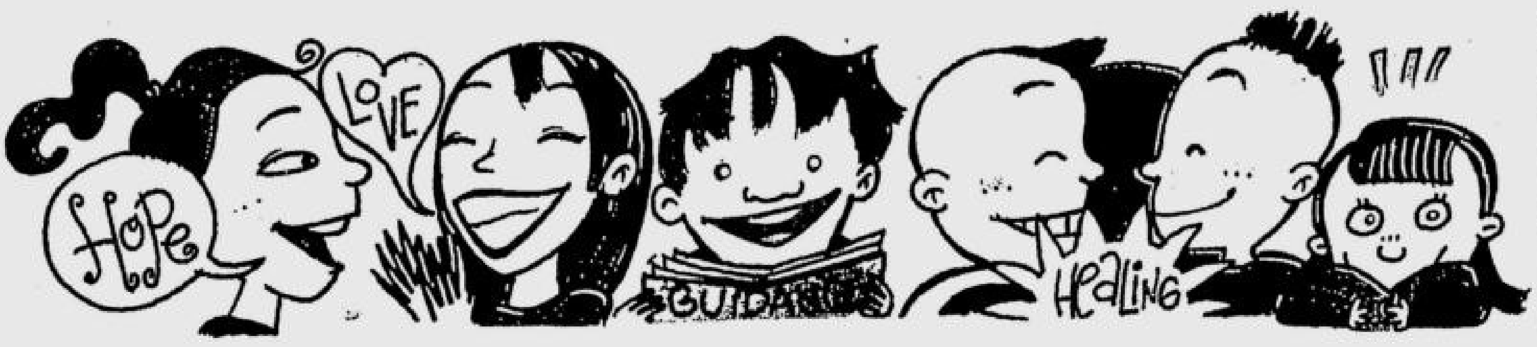
For Virlanie that relies solely on the good heart of sponsors, however, the P24,000 monthly rent is quite a stretch. In fact, the children had been sleeping on mattresses laid out on the floor since the transfer; the bunk beds in the previous house are too big for the new place. The dining table can seat only 12 children at a time that the older kids have to sit on the floor at mealtime. Without closets, they have had to pile all their clothes and few belongings in a corner of their rooms.

When asked what the other children wanted, Cocoy coaxes them to say they all want a bear. A 16-year-old girl asked for a school bag, one boy a Walkman, still another a tape recorder.

Then Cocoy hastens to add, "Shorts *po*

para sa kuya ko, kasi butas na ang shorts niya."

For inquiries and donations, call Lanie Jamoralin or Ma. Elena Mirando at 8907636, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, e-mail virlanie@virlanie.org. Ella Yallah is located at 218 Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati City.



Herrod Home

By Rowena C. Burgos

Top 5 needs:

Herrod Home for Children
- 3 electric fans
- Double-deck beds
- Refrigerator
- Gas range for the kids' cooking and baking lessons

Herrod Home Para sa Bata
- CD and cassette player
- Badminton set
- Table tennis set
- Volleyball
- 2 filing cabinets

SINCE Virlanie Foundation Inc. put up Herrod Home for Children in 1992 and Herrod Home Para sa Bata in 1995, it has alleviated the plight of over 200 children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected and have a history of drug use.

Herrod Home for Children takes care of children aged 12-22 while Herrod Home Para sa Bata handles kids aged 8-18. At present, Herrod Home for Children provides shelter to nine boys and nine girls while the latter has 10 boys and nine girls.

Both homes provide developmental services such as residential, medical, social, psychological, psychiatric, educational, spiritual, sports and recreation. A family atmosphere is created in these homes with parents, surrogate aunts and uncles, project coordinators and social workers providing love, discipline and guidance.

Children's needs

The children's needs are great. "There are stories that would break your heart," says Ma. Peggy Candare, project coordinator of Herrod Home for Children for four years now. "They are brutal, horrible stories, with lives that are in urgent need of mending."

Statistically, children will repeat the abuse they receive. "Our goal is to end that by giving them care, guidance and education. We want them to be care givers, not abuse repeaters," says Jovelyn Pulon, social worker for Herrod Home Para sa Bata since November.

Herrod Home for Children and Herrod Home Para sa Bata currently seeks funding and support.

Herrod Home Para sa Bata also needs a refrigerator and an oven.

For donations and inquiries, call Herrod Home for Children at 8972586 and Herrod Home Para sa Bata at 8952326, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289/ 8955260. Herrod Home for Children is located at 6 Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati. Herrod Home Para sa Bata is at 8531 Caong St., San Antonio, Makati.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Marco Polo Care Center

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

Top 5 needs:
- 1 pediatric wheelchair
- 1 mattress
- 4 ceiling or wall fans
- 1 wooden sala set
- 30 blankets

JAN Joshua's mother was a commercial sex worker. She would leave JJ inside a rented shanty every night alone while she tried to find work in the street.

That fateful night when JJ was only nine months old, a fire broke out in a nearby shanty, razing the entire block including JJ's home. Miraculously, he survived but was badly burned from waist down, disfiguring his legs and feet.

His mother eventually left him and sent him for adoption. JJ was brought to Virlanie Foundation.

Now, at six years old, JJ is one of the 29 wards of Marco Polo Care Center. He's smart, jolly, friendly and blissfully oblivious to the tragedy that struck him at a very tender age.

Marco Polo Care Center, run by the Virlanie Foundation, serves as home for abandoned, physically or sexually abused children aged 4 to 10. It provides shelter, food, clothing and education to these young wards.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

According to Rosalinda Brazil, a social worker and project coordinator of Marco Polo Care Center, the home also serves as a Drop-In Center where children taken directly from the streets or referred by other agencies or walk-in clients are brought in for further assessment.

"We give a wide range of services from education and medical treatment to psychological counseling," explains Brazil.

Like a real home, the center has a house father and three house mothers to nurture and comfort these most vulnerable victims.

Last year, JJ underwent an operation to repair his damaged legs and feet. Metal braces were planted on his young limbs. Because of this, JJ can't walk and now goes around with his fellow wards in an old rickety stroller.

Therefore, a pedia wheelchair would be a lot of help for JJ. "It would make it easy for him to move around even by himself," says Brazil.

Marco Polo Care Center also needs:
- 1 bedpan
- 1 filing cabinet
- 30 pairs of slippers
- detergent powders and bath soaps
- Nido milk powder
- monoblock chairs
- 1 frying pan
- 2 casseroles

For inquiries and donations, call Rosalinda Brazil or Anielyn Bames at 8965275, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, or email virlanie@virlanie.org. Marco Polo Care Center is at 4066 Yague St. corner Sunrise St., La Paz, Makati.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Jade Home

Top 5 needs:
- 1 water dispenser
- 1 refrigerator
- 1 wooden sala set
- 1 washing machine
- 1 fax machine

By Allison W. Lopez

AT THE JADE Home, 17 special children will greet you either with a respectful *mano*, a curious stare, a toothy smile, and sometimes, even a little pinch or a smack on the arm.

You will then notice the center's walls, doors and toys all awash in the brightest colors—just the way the children like it.

They like to be surrounded with color, says special educator Roland Canillas. And for a reason. It is a harsh reality that most of these kids were abandoned, left on their own to deal with their disability, or have parents who are unable to provide the care they need.

To accommodate the increasing number of special children finding their way to Virlanie, the Jade Home was created in 1996.

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But even this is not enough. With 17 diverse cases ranging from mental retardation, autism, cerebral palsy, and mental illness—and with some already in their 20s—the staff's hands are always full. "We can only take so much. 17 is actually more than the maximum," says Canillas.

Jade Home project coordinator Frank Andres, who has been with Virlanie since 1997, says another washing machine would be very helpful in case the old one breaks down.

"*Naliligo sila dalawang beses sa isang araw. Bale mga apat na damit bawa't bata... Mahirap kung masisira yung washing machine dahil kakamayin ng staff* (they will handwash the clothes)," he says.

New/secondhand clothes (shirt, shorts) and new underwear for the 12 boys and five girls will also be appreciated.

Meanwhile, around P18,000 a month is spent for medicines alone. These are mostly for the seizures some of the kids occasionally have, and some for vitamins to keep them healthy. Three wards also use medium adult diapers (which cost P150/10 pieces) daily since they do not have toilet training.

It isn't easy to care for special children. Canillas says psychometric/diagnostic exams, which are very expensive, would greatly help them in designing the right program for each child, especially those who show no signs of progress. At present, case diagnoses are based on observations by educators, family members and psychiatrists.

Jade Home also needs:
- 1 big frying pan
- 1 gas range
- 2 dozen monoblock chairs
- 1 microwave
- 1 blender
- 1 big rice cooker
- 1 wheelchair
- 1 water heater
- 1 medicine cabinet
- 1 steel filing cabinet
- 1 PT treatment bed
- 2 mop squeezers
- 3 stand fans

For donations and inquiries, call Frank Andres or Anthony Almonguerra at 8972574, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289. Jade Home is located at 4066 Yague St. corner Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati City.

Marco Polo Home

By Ruth L. Navarra

Top 5 needs:
- 1 big strainer and small basins
- 1 reserve LPG gas
- 20 small-sized slippers for the summer season
- 20 mattresses for single beds
- 20 blankets

THE MARCO Polo Home at 2065 Hawaii St., La Paz, Makati City, was established in February 1995 for abandoned, neglected and orphaned children.

It could provide for 20 children at any given time. Children ages 5-12 years come from Virlanie Foundation's Drop-in Center and Marco Polo Care Center or other institutions. These kids have undergone rehabilitation for six months, yet are considered still in need of further support and assistance.

Some of the children don't even have first names when first brought to the center, so the social workers and volunteers improvise for them.

"We let the children 'borrow' our surnames," says social worker Marilou Fullo.

Besides giving them an identity, the home provides for the basic needs of the children and sends most of them to school. Continuous psychological assistance is given to help the children overcome traumatic experiences and behavioral problems like stealing or substance abuse.

The home also provides legal assistance for the declaration of abandonment of children whose families or relatives can no longer be traced.

"We welcome the news that a child has been declared abandoned because this means we could set him or her up with a loving family who can give all the love and guidance he or she needs," says Fullo.

For donations and inquiries, call Metzi Bagto or Marilou Fullo at 8972621, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289.

Elizabeth Home

By Pam Pastor

Top 5 needs:
- Oven and baking equipment
- Clothes
- Milk
- Electric fans
- Mini component and VCD player

SINCE 1993, girls who have been abused by members of their own family can leave the dangers of their own home and find protection at the Elizabeth Home. Those who have pursued the case against their perpetrators and are being threatened can also find a sanctuary in Elizabeth Home.

These girls, some of whom also had experiences with drugs and prostitution, receive care during their stay.

Their residential and basic needs are met and they are also offered therapeutic and psychological services. If their court case is still underway, the people behind Elizabeth Home also assist them during their hearings.

Thanks to sponsors, the girls who live in Elizabeth Home also have educational opportunities, with a lot of them attending high school and college. Those who don't go to college undergo skills training and receive job referrals.

Right now, there are 18 girls under the care of Elizabeth Home, which can accommodate a total of 20 girls.

The age requirement used to be 15 and above, but because of the growing number of sexual abuse cases involving younger children, the center has lowered its age requirement.

The girls stay for an average of two years before returning to their families while others stay longer, until they are 22 years old. Right now, the youngest girl at Elizabeth Home is nine years old.

Project coordinator Lira Tanamor says that the home is in need of an oven and baking equipment. "We used to have baking lessons for the girls but since the oven broke down, we had to stop."

They also need milk for the younger girls, clothes, electric fans and a mini component. "When we have programs, we have to borrow from other homes."

They also borrow a VCD player so the girls can watch movies.

Tanamor says that the girls would also appreciate kind-hearted groups and individuals who would be willing to take out the older girls for trips to the mall for movies and meals at fast food restaurants. "The attention is always on the younger ones. Sometimes, the older ones ask, *bakit sa amin walang nagte-treat?*"

Maybe now, someone will.

For donations and inquiries, call Elizabeth Home at 4008521 or the Virlanie Foundation at 8962289. Elizabeth Home is located at 2535 Conchu St., Malate Manila.

Ella Yallah Home

By Cheche V. Moral

"ATE, *ang gusto ko* [teddy] bear!" giggles Cocoy (not his real name).

The 9-year-old is small for his age, but his spirit more than makes up for what he lacks in size. When asked why he wants a teddy bear, he breaks into a shy grin and answers, "*Para po may katabi ako sa pagtulog.*"

Cocoy is the *bunso* (youngest) of the 21 wards of Ella Yallah (EY) Home, one of the centers of Virlanie Foundation Inc. EY aims to provide a loving home for children with histories of drug use, physical and sexual abuse, and in conflict with the law.

Many of these children, according to project coordinator Lanie Jamoralin, have previously been living on the streets or abandoned by their parents, like Cocoy and his brother.

Most of the EY wards attend regular school, with four in high school at present. One girl, the oldest at 22, is blind and attends the Philippine School for the Blind. One of the boys is mute as a result of a traumatic experience. One girl is set to be reunited with her mother soon.

At EY, lack of bedmates is actually the least of Cocoy's problems. In fact, he and his 12-year-old brother share with nine other boys the cramped third level of the brand-new apartment unit housing EY.

On the second level, the 10 girls' sleeping quarters are divided into two small rooms, adjacent to the tiny EY office. The ground floor is living, dining and kitchen areas in one, with one small room for the housemother and father in one corner.

Top 5 needs:

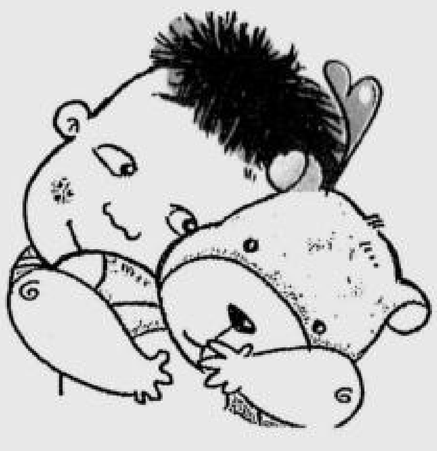
Clothes and underwear for ages 7-21 years old; and toiletries
Bunk beds and folding tables
Wall fans
Beddings
Refrigerator

EY has just recently transferred to this new location in Brgy. La Paz, Makati, and it's quite an improvement from its previous home—a dark, decrepit second level of a house located nearby. However cramped, the positive effect of the new home on the children, according to Jamoralin, has indeed been unquantifiable.

For Virlanie that relies solely on the good heart of sponsors, however, the P24,000 monthly rent is quite a stretch. In fact, the children had been sleeping on mattresses laid out on the floor since the transfer; the bunk beds in the previous house are too big for the new place. The dining table can seat only 12 children at a time that the older kids have to sit on the floor at mealtime. Without closets, they have had to pile all their clothes and few belongings in a corner of their rooms.

When asked what the other children wanted, Cocoy coaxes them to say they all want a bear. A 16-year-old girl asked for a school bag, one boy a Walkman, still another a tape recorder.

Then Cocoy hastens to add, "Shorts *po para sa kuya ko, kasi butas na ang shorts niya.*"



For inquiries and donations, call Lanie Jamoralin or Ma. Elena Mirando at 8907636, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, e-mail virlanie@virlanie.org. Ella Yallah is located at 218 Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati City.

HoPe
LoVE
GUIDANCE
HeaLING

Herrod Home

By Rowena C. Burgos

SINCE Virlanie Foundation Inc. put up Herrod Home for Children in 1992 and Herrod Home Para sa Bata in 1995, it has alleviated the plight of over 200 children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected and have a history of drug use.

Herrod Home for Children takes care of children aged 12-22 while Herrod Home Para sa Bata handles kids aged 8-18. At present, Herrod Home for Children provides shelter to nine boys and nine girls while the latter has 10 boys and nine girls.

Both homes provide developmental services such as residential, medical, social, psychological, psychiatric, educational, spiritual, sports and recreation. A family atmosphere is created in these homes with parents, surrogate aunts and uncles, project coordinators and social workers providing love, discipline and guidance.

Children's needs

The children's needs are great. "There are stories that would break your heart," says Ma. Peggy Candare, project coordinator of Herrod Home for Children for four years now. "They are brutal, horrible stories, with lives that are in urgent need of mending."

Statistically, children will repeat the abuse they receive. "Our goal is to end that by giving them care, guidance and education. We want them to be care givers, not abuse repeaters," says Jovelyn Pulon, social worker for Herrod Home Para sa Bata since November.

Herrod Home for Children and Herrod Home Para sa Bata currently seeks funding and support.

Herrod Home Para sa Bata also needs a refrigerator and an oven.

Top 5 needs:

Herrod Home for Children
3 electric fans
Double-deck beds
Refrigerator
Gas range for the kids' cooking and baking lessons
Herrod Home Para sa Bata
CD and cassette player
Badminton set
Table tennis set
Volleyball
2 filing cabinets

For donations and inquiries, call Herrod Home for Children at 8972586 and Herrod Home Para sa Bata at 8952326, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289/ 8955260. Herrod Home for Children is located at 6 Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati. Herrod Home Para sa Bata is at 8531 Caong St., San Antonio, Makati.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

Jade Home

Top 5 needs:

1 water dispenser
1 refrigerator
1 wooden sala set
1 washing machine
1 fax machine

By Allison W. Lopez

AT THE JADE Home, 17 special children will greet you either with a respectful *mano*, a curious stare, a toothy smile, and sometimes, even a little pinch or a smack on the arm.

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Marco Polo Care Center

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

Top 5 needs:

1 pediatric wheelchair
1 mattress
4 ceiling or wall fans
1 wooden sala set
30 blankets

JAN Joshua's mother was a commercial sex worker. She would leave JJ inside a rented shanty every night alone while she tried to find work in the street.

That fateful night when JJ was only nine months old, a fire broke out in a nearby shanty, razing the entire block including JJ's home. Miraculously, he survived but was badly burned from waist down, disfiguring his legs and feet.

His mother eventually left him and sent him for adoption. JJ was brought to Virlanie Foundation.

Now, at six years old, JJ is one of the 29 wards of Marco Polo Care Center. He's smart, jolly, friendly and blissfully oblivious to the tragedy that struck him at a very tender age.

Marco Polo Care Center, run by the Virlanie Foundation, serves as home for abandoned, physically or sexually abused children aged 4 to 10. It provides shelter, food, clothing and education to these young wards.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

According to Rosalinda Brazil, a social worker and project coordinator of Marco Polo Care Center, the home also serves as a Drop-In Center where children taken directly from the streets or referred by other agencies or walk-in clients are brought in for further assessment.

"We give a wide range of services from education and medical treatment to psychological counseling," explains Brazil.

Like a real home, the center has a house father and three house mothers to nurture and comfort these most vulnerable victims.

Last year, JJ underwent an operation to repair his damaged legs and feet. Metal braces were planted on his young limbs. Because of this, JJ can't walk and now goes around with his fellow wards in an old rickety stroller.

Therefore, a pedia wheelchair would be a lot of help for JJ. "It would make it easy for him to move around even by himself," says Brazil.

Marco Polo Care Center also needs:

1 bedpan
1 filing cabinet
30 pairs of slippers
detergent powders and bath soaps
Nido milk powder
monoblock chairs
1 frying pan
2 casseroles

For inquiries and donations, call Rosalinda Brazil or Anielyn Bames at 8965275, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, or email virlanie@virlanie.org. Marco Polo Care Center is at 4066 Yague St. corner Sunrise St., La Paz, Makati.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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'Conservation' sale ends March 31

HANDYMAN Do it Best Home Center is holding an Energy and Water Conservation Sale until March 31.

At the same time, Handyman shares some tips on conservation to reduce water and power bills. Handyman recommends proper maintenance and upgrading of air-conditioning systems and electric fans. Turn off lights when not in use. Buy dedicated compact fluorescent fixtures with built-in ballasts or compact fluorescent lights, now available at discounted prices at Handyman.

Put refrigerators and freezers away from direct sunlight and other heat sources. Make sure to have at least an inch of space on each side to allow air circulation.

Handyman suggests preheating ovens only when baking and keep preheating time to a minimum. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so heat is better reflected. Boil water in a covered kettle or pan.

If you're using an electric stove, turn off the stovetop burner several minutes before the allotted cooking time as it will stay hot long enough to finish the cooking.

To conserve water, fix leaks in water lines and pipes. Check your toilet flushing system for leaks and make sure it gets replaced soonest. Handyman offers toilet repair kits that can be installed easily to prevent water loss.

Visit Handyman outlets in all Robinsons malls, Festival Mall Alabang, Waltermart and other malls nationwide.

Drink up or speak up. Our continued reliance on imported fossil fuels like coal and oil for energy is one of the largest reasons behind problems like global warming, air pollution, the rise in respiratory ailments, and the worsening condition of our water supplies. This dependence also leaves us economically vulnerable to the spiraling cost of coal and oil in the world market. And things will only get murkier unless we reduce our use of coal and oil and push for the increased use of renewable energy sources like geothermal, wind, biomass, hydro, and solar. Speak up and let the government know you want clean energy. Text WWF YES <Your Name> to 2366 for Globe (P2.50/text) or log on to www.powerswitch.org.ph/vote. Act now and help get the Renewable Energy Bill passed into law. Maybe then, the future won't be such a hard thing to swallow.

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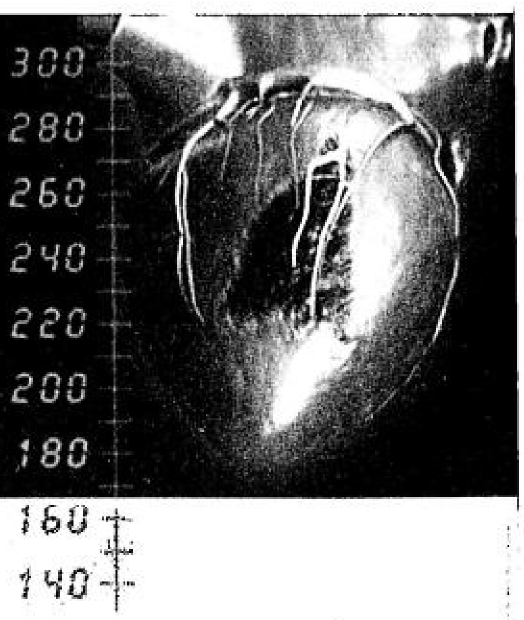

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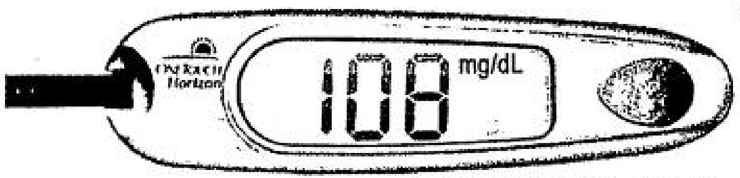

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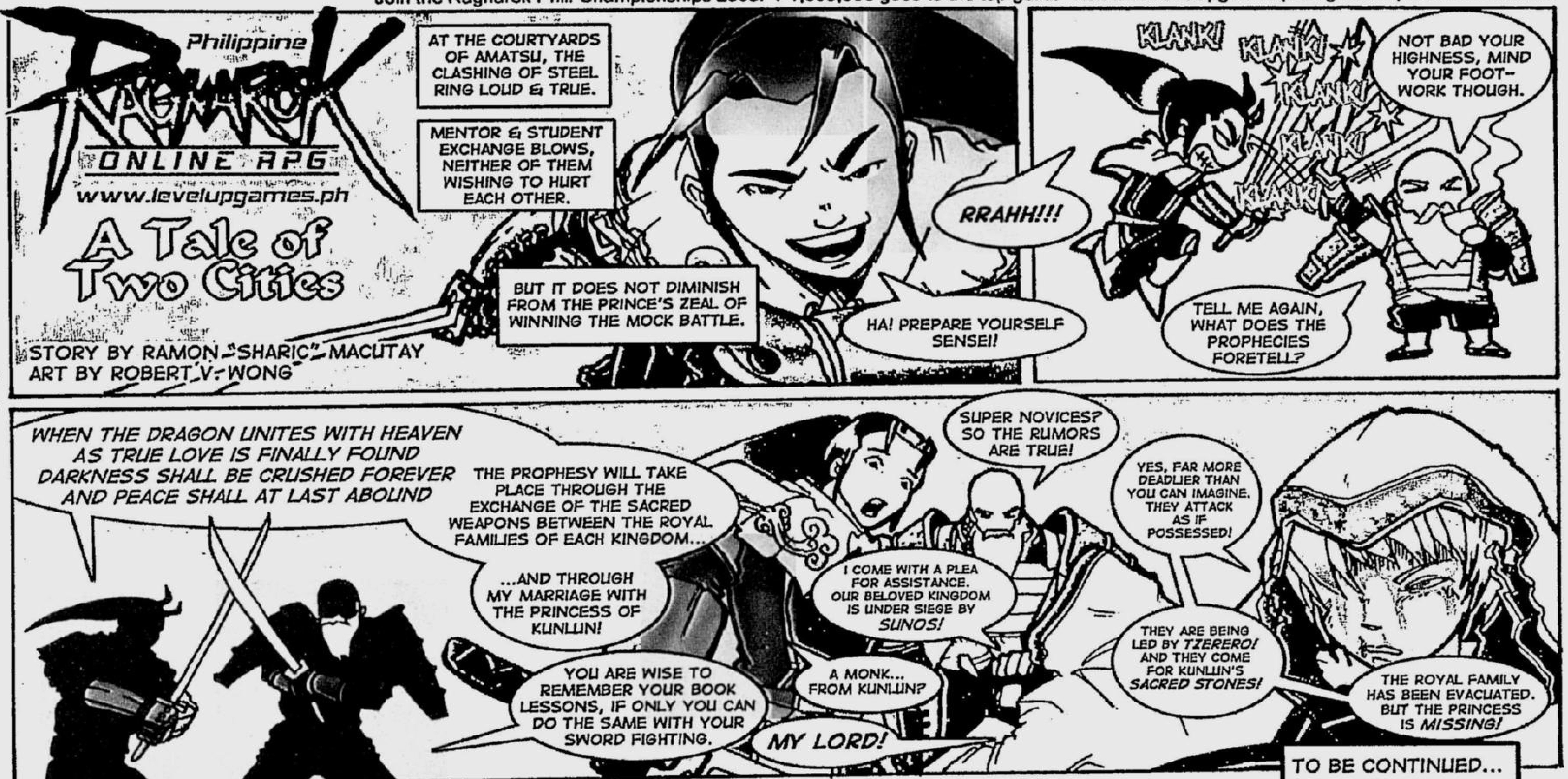
MARCH 20, 2005

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

Join the Ragnarok Phil. Championships 2005! P1,000,000 goes to the top guild! Visit www.levelupgames.ph/ragnarok/rpc2005 for details.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STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
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MENTOR & STUDENT EXCHANGE BLOWS, NEITHER OF THEM WISHING TO HURT EACH OTHER.
BUT IT DOES NOT DIMINISH FROM THE PRINCE'S ZEAL OF WINNING THE MOCK BATTLE.
RRAHH!!!
HA! PREPARE YOURSELF SENSEI!
KLANK! KLANK! KLANK! KLANK! KLANK! KLANK!
NOT BAD YOUR HIGHNESS, MIND YOUR FOOT-WORK THOUGH.
TELL ME AGAIN, WHAT DOES THE PROPHECIES FORETELL?
WHEN THE DRAGON UNITES WITH HEAVEN AS TRUE LOVE IS FINALLY FOUND DARKNESS SHALL BE CRUSHED FOREVER AND PEACE SHALL AT LAST ABOUND
THE PROPHESY WILL TAKE PLACE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF THE SACRED WEAPONS BETWEEN THE ROYAL FAMILIES OF EACH KINGDOM...
...AND THROUGH MY MARRIAGE WITH THE PRINCESS OF KUNLUN!
YOU ARE WISE TO REMEMBER YOUR BOOK LESSONS, IF ONLY YOU CAN DO THE SAME WITH YOUR SWORD FIGHTING.
MY LORD!
A MONK... FROM KUNLUN?
I COME WITH A PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE. OUR BELOVED KINGDOM IS UNDER SIEGE BY SUNOS!
SUPER NOVICES? SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE!
YES, FAR MORE DEADLIER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. THEY ATTACK AS IF POSSESSED!
THEY ARE BEING LED BY TZERERO! AND THEY COME FOR KUNLUN'S SACRED STONES!
THE ROYAL FAMILY HAS BEEN EVACUATED. BUT THE PRINCESS IS MISSING!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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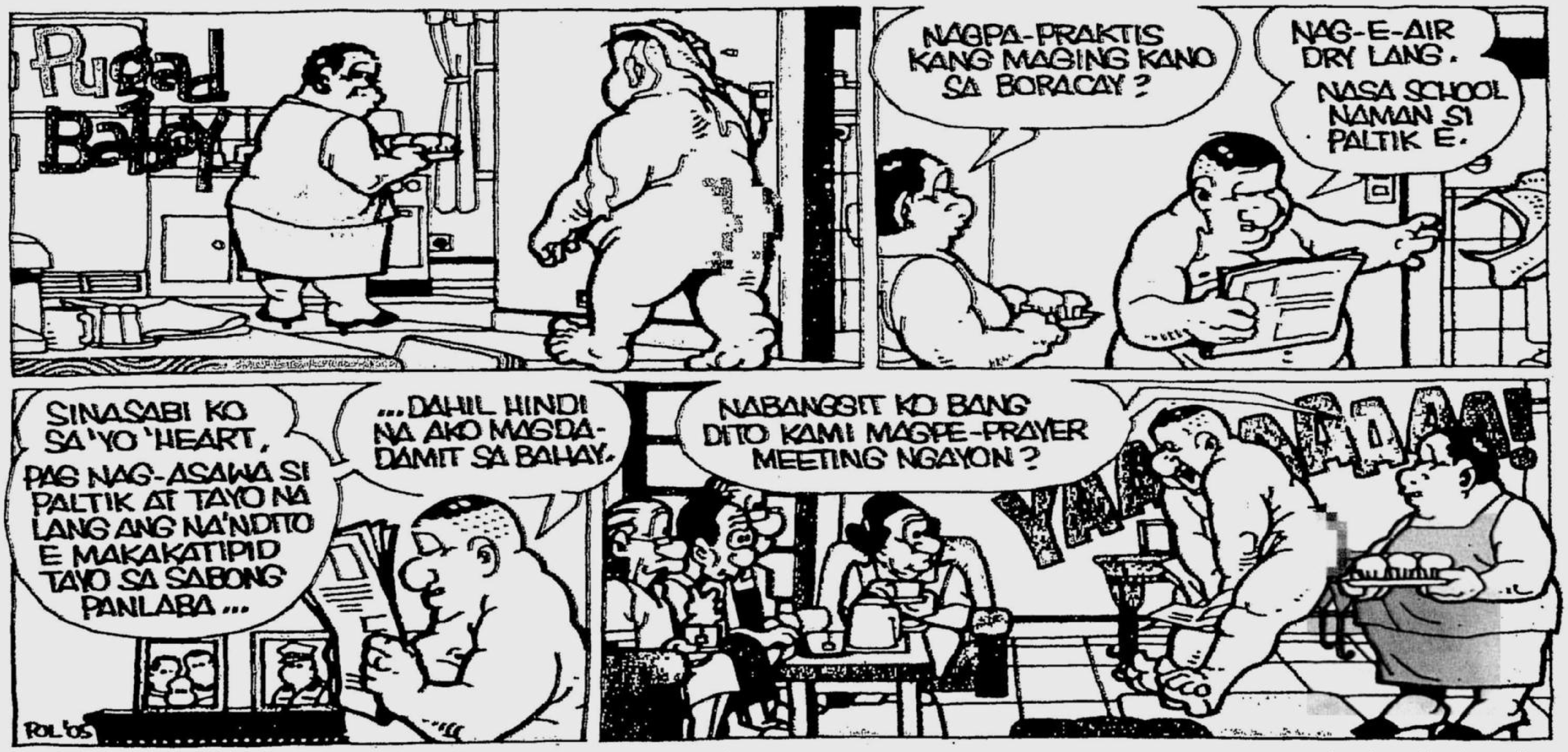
PUGAD BABOY

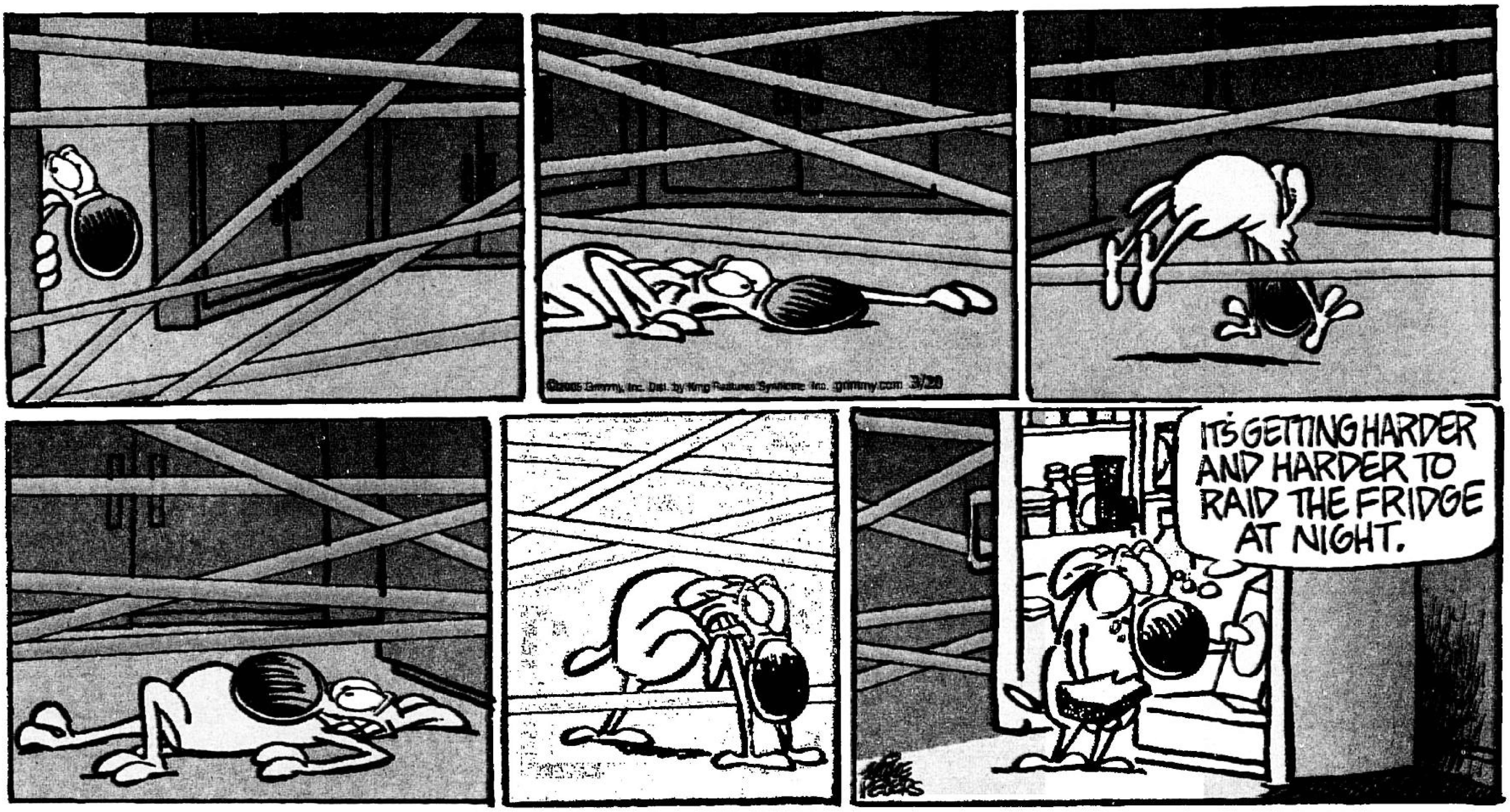
BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
NAGPA-PRAKTIS KANG MAGING KANO SA BORACAY?
NAG-E-AIR DRY LANG. NASA SCHOOL NAMAN SI PALTIK E.
SINASABI KO SA 'YO 'HEART,
PAG NAG-ASAWA SI PALTIK AT TAYO NA LANG ANG NA'NDITO E MAKAKATIPID TAYO SA SABONG PANLABA...
...DAHIL HINDI NA AKO MAGDA-DAMIT SA BAHAY.
NABANGGIT KO BANG DITO KAMI MAGPE-PRAYER MEETING NGAYON?
YAAAAAAA!
POL '05

FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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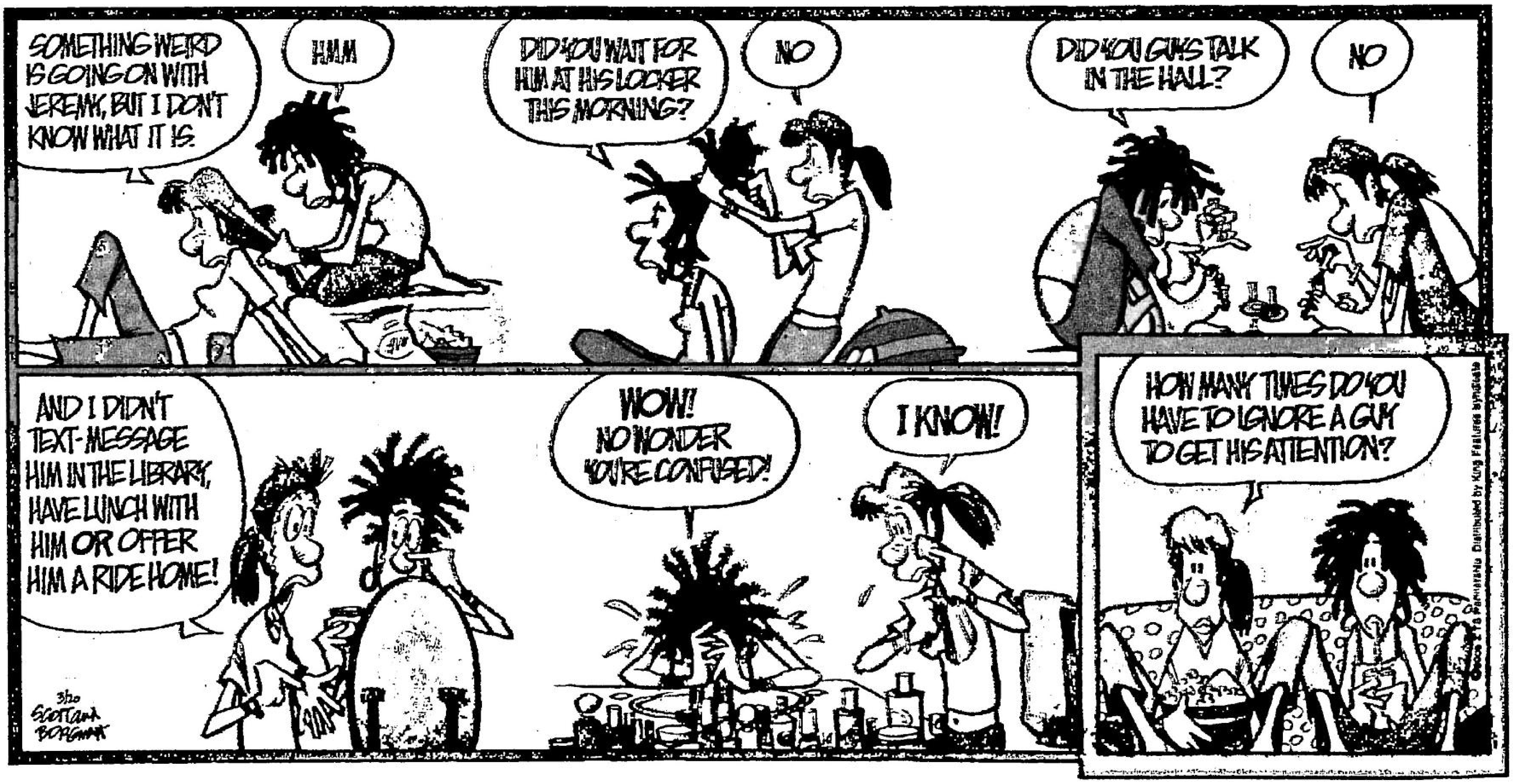
IT'S GETTING HARDER AND HARDER TO RAID THE FRIDGE AT NIGHT.
MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING ON WITH JEREMY, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
HMM
DID YOU WAIT FOR HIM AT HIS LOCKER THIS MORNING?
NO
DID YOU GUYS TALK IN THE HALL?
NO
AND I DIDN'T TEXT-MESSAGE HIM IN THE LIBRARY, HAVE LUNCH WITH HIM OR OFFER HIM A RIDE HOME!
WOW! NO WONDER YOU'RE CONFUSED!
I KNOW!
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU HAVE TO IGNORE A GUY TO GET HIS ATTENTION?
3/20 SCOTT and BORGMAN
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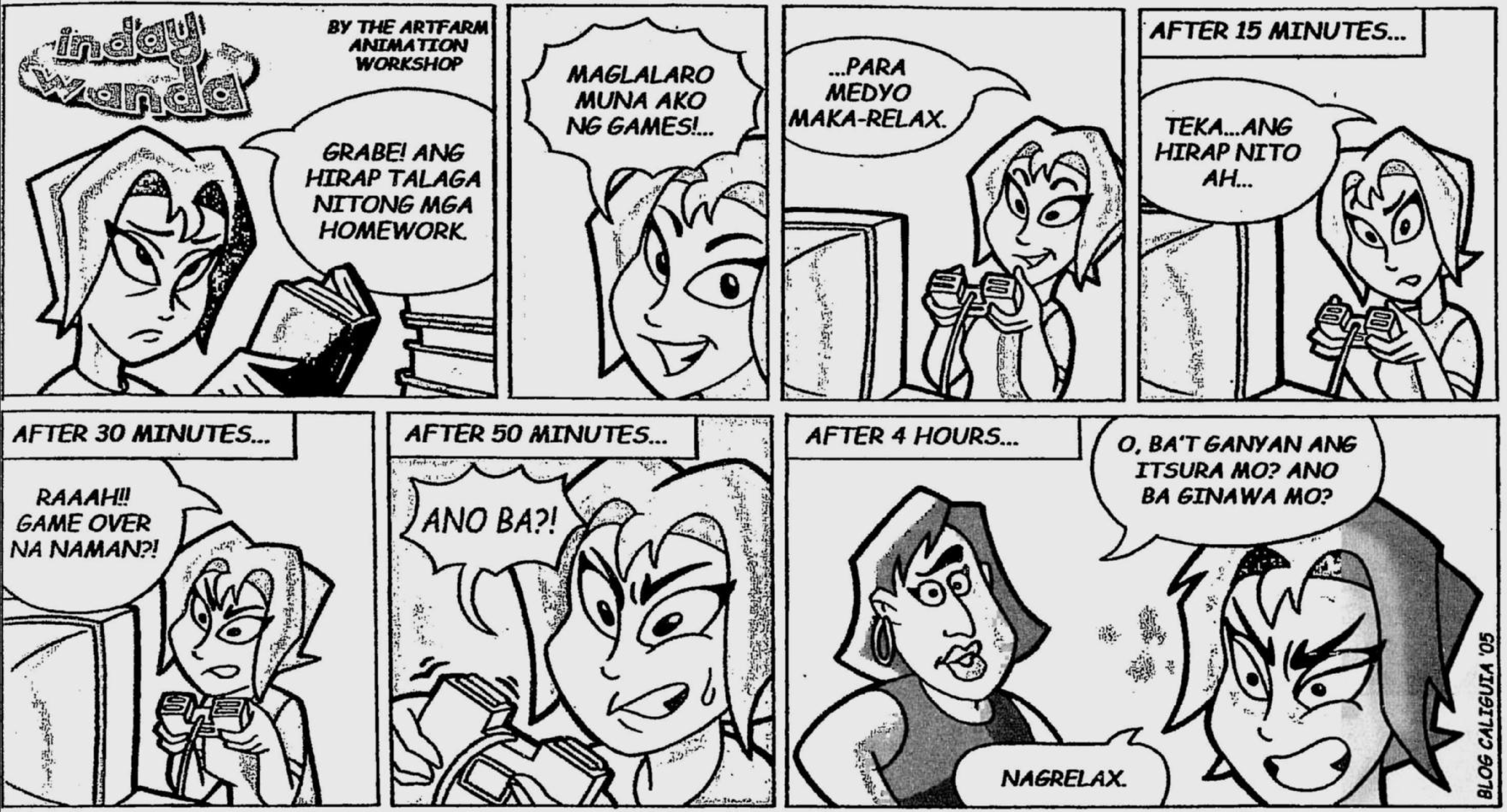
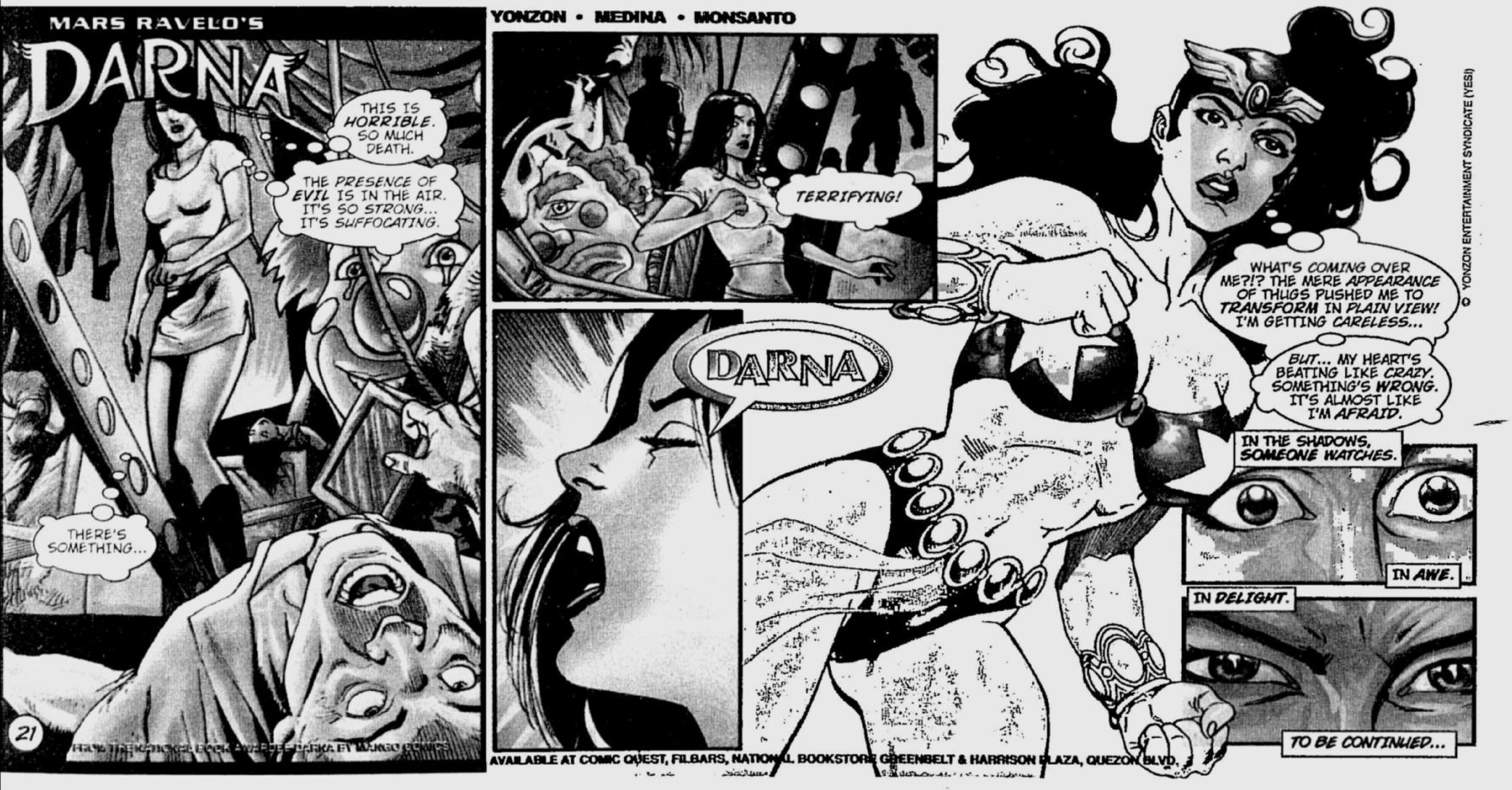
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


inday wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
GRABE! ANG HIRAP TALAGA NITONG MGA HOMEWORK.
MAGLALARO MUNA AKO NG GAMES!...
...PARA MEDYO MAKA-RELAX.
AFTER 15 MINUTES...
TEKA...ANG HIRAP NITO AH...
AFTER 30 MINUTES...
RAAAH!! GAME OVER NA NAMAN?!
AFTER 50 MINUTES...
ANO BA?!
AFTER 4 HOURS...
O, BA'T GANYAN ANG ITSURA MO? ANO BA GINAWA MO?
NAGRELAX.
BLOG CALIGUIA '05

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

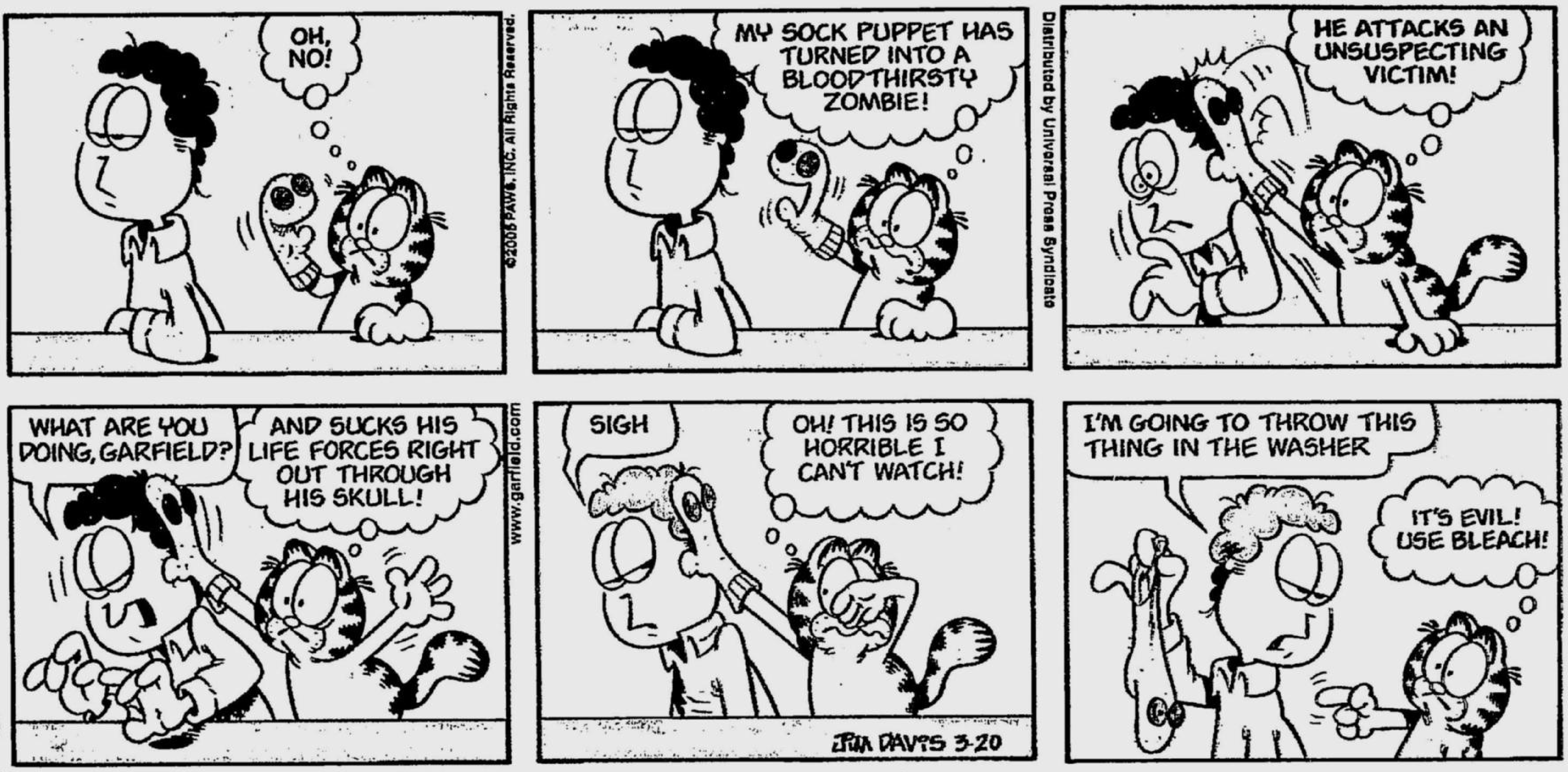

MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
THIS IS HORRIBLE. SO MUCH DEATH.
THE PRESENCE OF EVIL IS IN THE AIR. IT'S SO STRONG... IT'S SUFFOCATING.
THERE'S SOMETHING...
21
YONZON • MEDINA • MONSANTO
TERRIFYING!
DARNA
WHAT'S COMING OVER ME?!? THE MERE APPEARANCE OF THUGS PUSHED ME TO TRANSFORM IN PLAIN VIEW! I'M GETTING CARELESS...
BUT... MY HEART'S BEATING LIKE CRAZY. SOMETHING'S WRONG. IT'S ALMOST LIKE I'M AFRAID.
IN THE SHADOWS, SOMEONE WATCHES.
IN AWE.
IN DELIGHT.
TO BE CONTINUED...
AVAILABLE AT COMIC QUEST, FILBARS, NATIONAL BOOKSTORE GREENBELT & HARRISON PLAZA, QUEZON BLVD.
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YESI)

A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

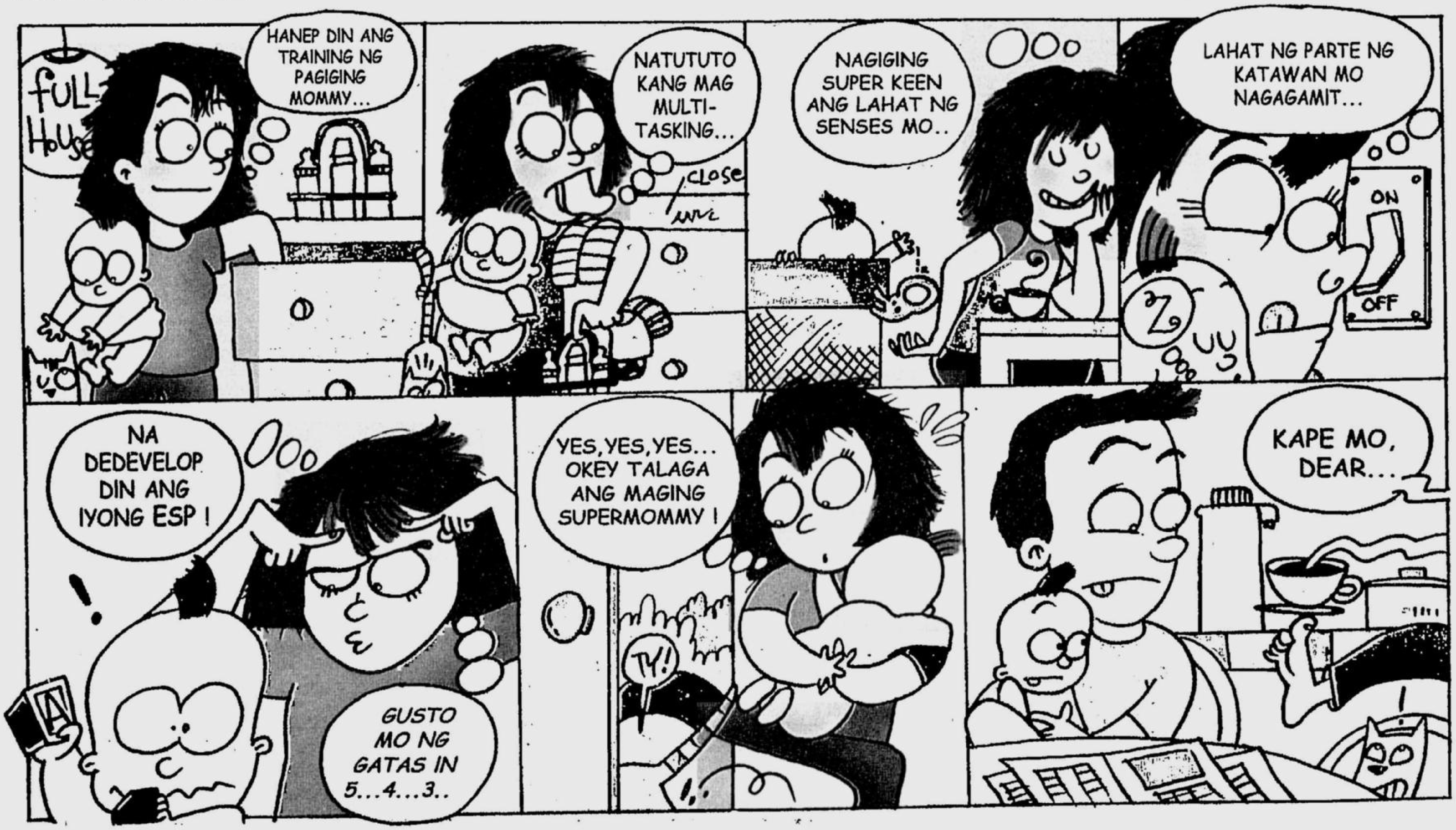
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

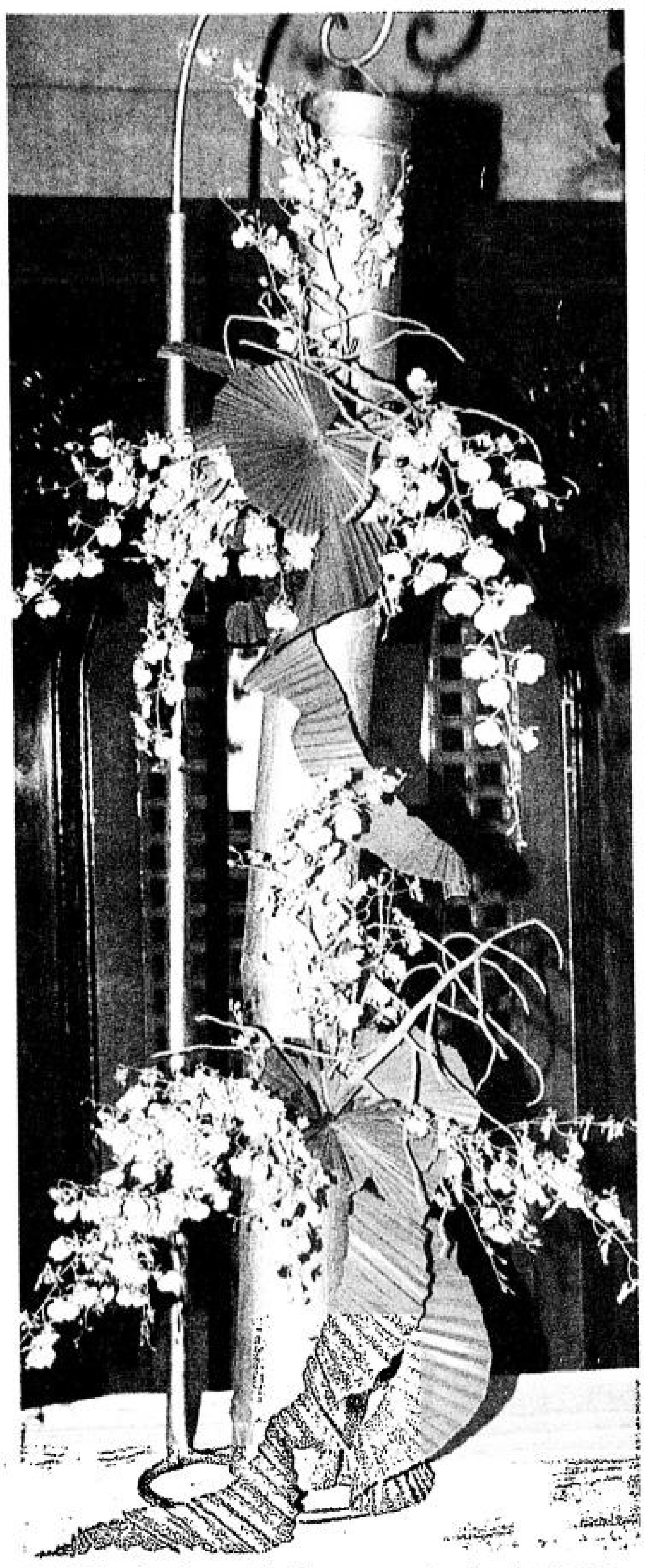

OH, NO!
©2005 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
MY SOCK PUPPET HAS TURNED INTO A BLOODTHIRSTY ZOMBIE!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
HE ATTACKS AN UNSUSPECTING VICTIM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, GARFIELD?
AND SUCKS HIS LIFE FORCES RIGHT OUT THROUGH HIS SKULL!
www.garfield.com
SIGH
OH! THIS IS SO HORRIBLE I CAN'T WATCH!
JIM DAVIS 3-20
I'M GOING TO THROW THIS THING IN THE WASHER
IT'S EVIL! USE BLEACH!

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


FULL House
HANEP DIN ANG TRAINING NG PAGIGING MOMMY...
NATUTUTO KANG MAG MULTI-TASKING...
CLOSE
NAGIGING SUPER KEEN ANG LAHAT NG SENSES MO..
LAHAT NG PARTE NG KATAWAN MO NAGAGAMIT...
ON
OFF
Z
NA DEDEVELOP DIN ANG IYONG ESP !
A
GUSTO MO NG GATAS IN 5...4...3..
YES, YES, YES... OKEY TALAGA ANG MAGING SUPERMOMMY !
TY!
KAPE MO, DEAR...

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT



HOLES in a bamboo pole hold arrangements of *anahaw* leaves cut into strips and Dancing Lady. Cuna says *calachuchi* is a suitable substitute for the pricey orchid.

ONE WINE bottle with a bunch of mums may not look much but several of them in a row is striking.

SIMPLE white aster in lavender glass vases with gracefully bent rattan strips for accent were chosen for the cathedral's already ornate Altar of Repose.

Flowers for Lent

Stylist Rachy Cuna lectures on floral arrangements for church rituals during Holy Week

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Rudy Esperas

ON A RECENT Monday afternoon, the hallowed hall of the magnificent Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, seat of the archdiocese of Manila, reverberated with the words "flowers" and "foliage," "vases" and "floral foam" and "glue."

Almost 300 people crammed into the front pews of the main altar, some sitting on the floor, many taking notes, listening with deep concentration to stylist Rachy Cuna.

Though it was already well into the Lenten season, the crowd was not listening to the gospel according to Cuna, at least not to biblical scriptures. But the event was very much part of the archdiocese's preparation for Holy Week.

Cuna was doing one of the things he does best—lecturing on and demonstrating floral arrangements to an audience consisting mainly of workers of the archdiocese's churches and parishes outside Metro Manila, as well as people who simply wanted to learn from a master.

The lecture on "Floral Offerings for the Liturgy: Holy Thursday Altars of Repose," the first to be held at the Manila Cathedral, was organized by Fr. Gabriel Casal, chair of the Manila Archdiocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (MACC) and director of the Archdiocesan Archives and Museum, in collaboration with Msgr. Nestor Cerbo, rector of the church and director of the Archdiocesan Office for Research and Development.

The main object of the exercise was to teach the workers to prepare their respective churches for the traditional rituals starting from Maundy Thursday to that most glorious of Catholic celebrations, the resurrection of the martyred Christ on Easter Sunday.

Repository

Special attention was given to the Altar of Repose. Fr. Casal explained that the Altar of Repose was based on the word repository. In churches that have it, the altar holds the Blessed Sacrament, symbol of the Eucharist.

"Maundy Thursday celebrates the institution of the Eucharist... The liturgy on that evening (Thursday) ends with a procession with the Blessed Sacrament ending at the Altar of Repose, where it is kept, reserved, until the liturgy of Good Friday. The Altar of Repose is decorated as sumptuously as possible to honor and in celebration of the Blessed Sacrament... Our local practice of Visita Iglesia gives Catholics the opportunity to visit and pay homage to the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose of different churches," Fr. Casal said.

In his lecture/demonstration, Cuna, who is a MACC commissioner, showed church workers how they could use readily available local materials like bamboo poles, *sinamay* and even empty bottles of wine used in church service for their floral arrangements.

Though he used lilium, Dancing Lady orchids and white roses, Cuna assured his audience that an attractive flower arrangement did not have to be expensive. "*Hindi mahal ang maganda*," he stressed as he demonstrated how even *caimito* leaves could be used.

With the participation of some members of the audience, he also showed that even vegetables would be appropriate church offering, especially on Easter.

Good substitutions

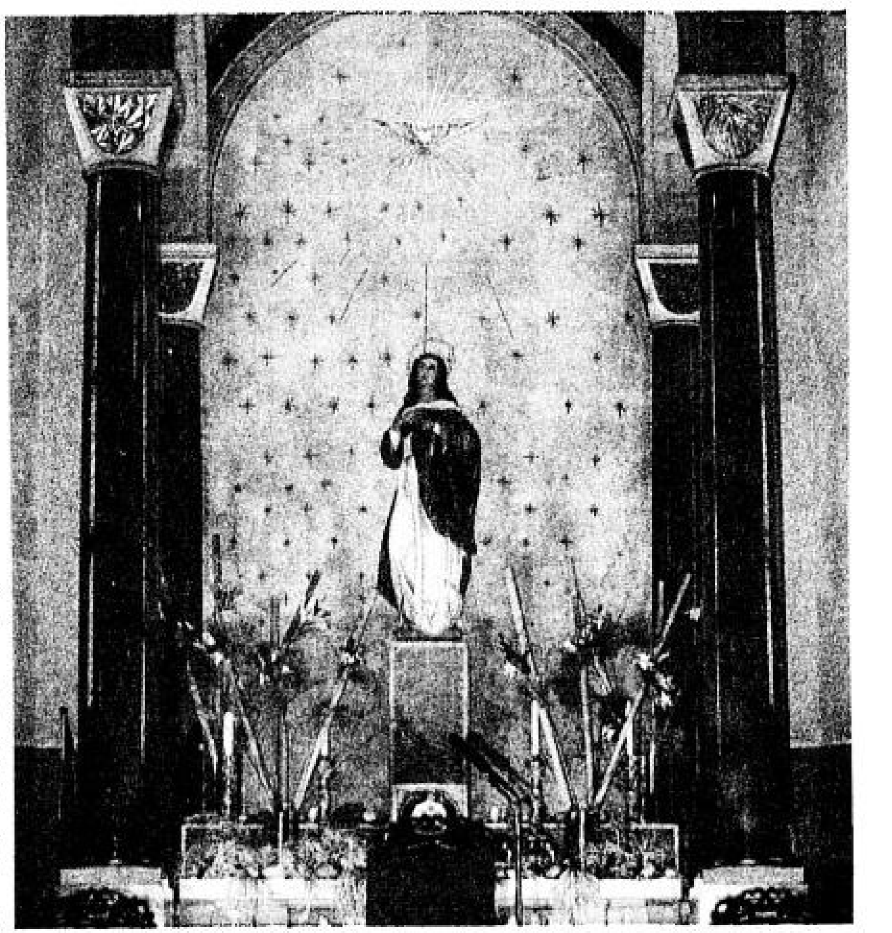
Cuna emphasized the need to substitute, improvise and just be creative. He said *calachuchi* and *bougainville*, two very colorful blooms, could be substituted for some of his arrangements.

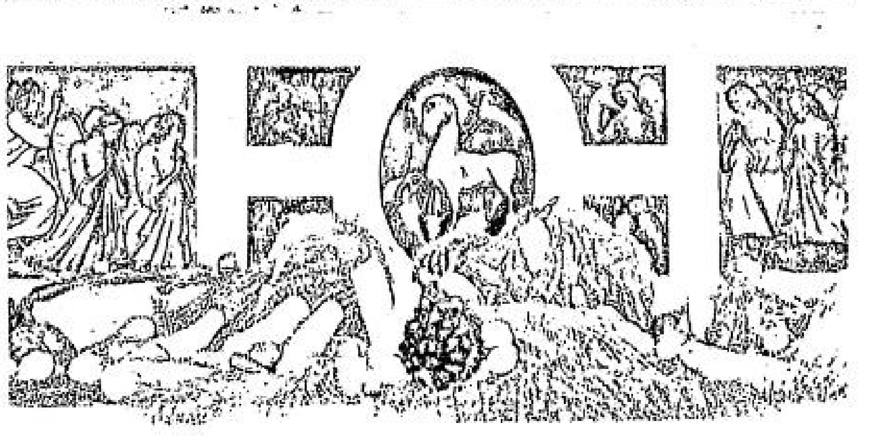
A spray of silver paint on the wine bottles and yellow floral paint on ordinary Shasta daisies, as well as strips of rattan and *anahaw* leaves cut in an unusual way, could give arrangements a dash of style and class.

Cuna's lecture, which drew the biggest participation, was just the latest in a series organized by Fr. Casal to enhance the skills of workers in the archdiocese's 89 churches in Manila and Makati.

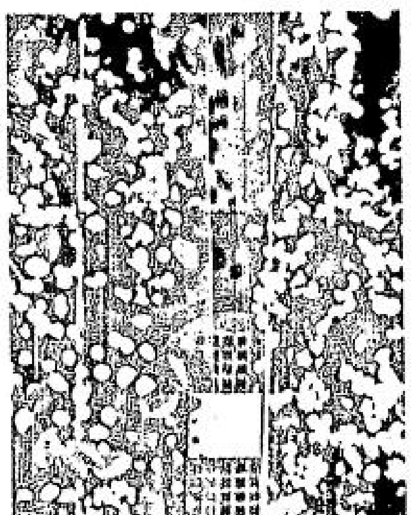
Previous seminars included Setting up Parish Libraries, Basic Conservation and Restoration, Introduction to Writing Parish Histories and Setting up an Ecclesiastical Museum.

The priest said they decided to include the lecture on flower arrangement "to emphasize that flowers, plants, fruits—the most beautiful of the Lord's creations—can be most fitting components of our offerings in liturgical celebrations."



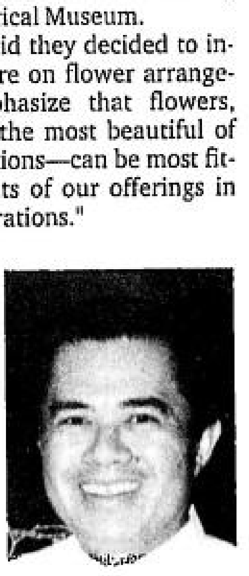


EASTER Sunday arrangement may be a combination of flowers and produce. Beside the image of the Immaculate Conception are bamboo poles with white lilium and in front of the table where the priest says Mass are fresh vegetables.



SWATHS of *sinamay*, floral spray glue, white rose petals and *caimito* leaves made this unusual flower arrangement possible.

STYLIST Rachy Cuna with Fr. Gabriel Casal, who organized the lecture



MSGR. Nestor Cerbo, rector of the cathedral

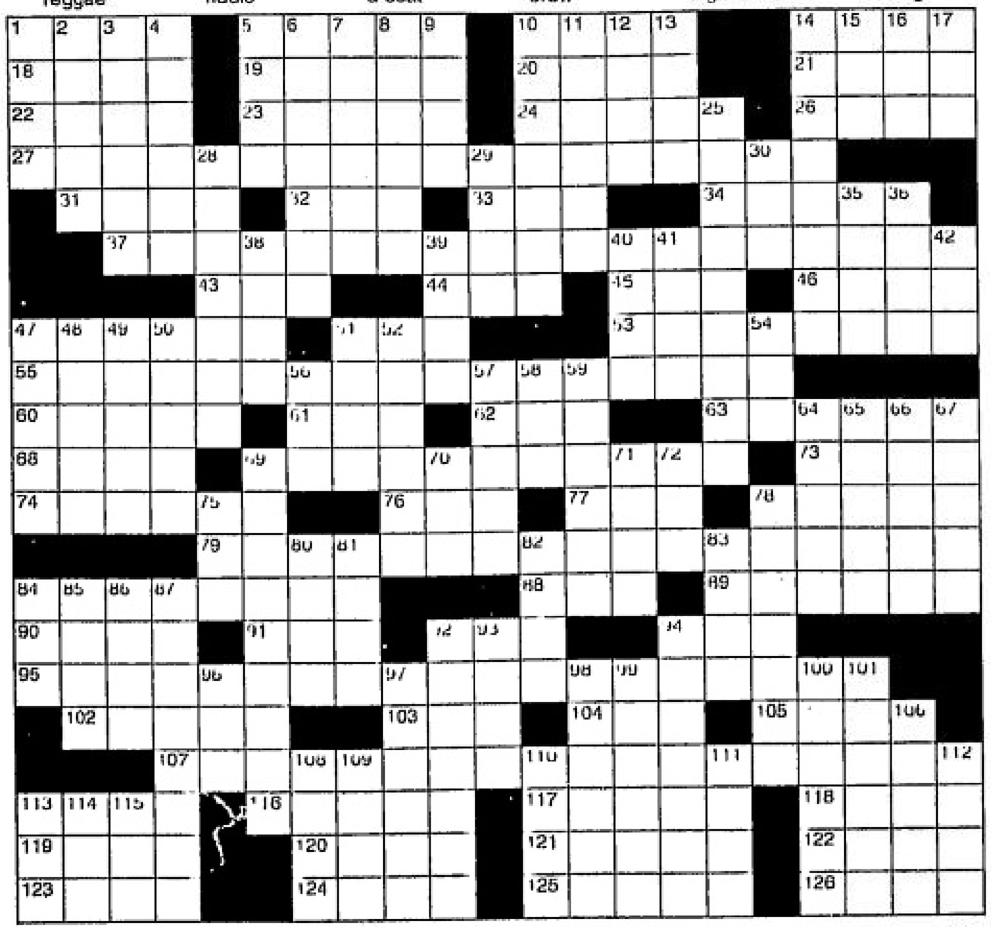
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

APPOMATTOX ADDRESS

ACROSS
1 Therefore
5 Twilight times
10 Home of the Jazz
14 Slothful
18 Heloise offering
19 Speck in the sea
20 Fork part
21 Territory
22 Taj Mahal locale
23 Twinkle
24 Of kidneys
26 Pain in the neck
27 Start of a riddle
31 Pouches in the body
32 C.S.A. soldier
33 Emotionless
34 Use a broom
37 Riddle, part 2
43 Blushing
44 More than -er
45 Suffix of sugars
46 Carte du jour
47 Supreme Court's Antonin
51 Relative of reggae
53 Legendary dragon battler
55 Riddle, part 3
60 Actress Verdugo
61 Birdie + 1
62 "See ya!"
63 Daytona 500 org.
68 Gilbert & Sullivan's "When I Was —"
69 Riddle, part 4
73 Singer, the actress
74 Dermal design
76 Do it wrong
77 Tentative taste
78 Circles overhead?
79 Riddle, part 5
84 Fruity frozen treat
88 Suffix with ethyl
89 Concert venues
90 Fill totally
91 Palm Pilot, e.g., briefly
92 D.J.'s array
94 Easy math problem
95 End of the riddle
102 Big Japanese brewery
103 Car fluid
104 Broadway's "Mamma —!"
105 Hoops tourney org.
107 Riddle's answer
113 — shui
116 Fox or Crow, e.g.
117 Follow, as advice
118 — -Chinese
119 Gal pal, in Paris
120 Teatro — Scala
121 Pottery piece
122 To be, in Toulon
123 Campus hangout
124 Gotten a glimpse of
125 Tryouts
126 Whiskey varieties

DOWN
1 Unfreeze
2 Up states
3 Imaginary
4 Golfer's position
5 Entree, say
6 Showed to a seat
7 Deli gizmo
8 Obi-Wan —
9 British gun
10 Netherlands city or province
11 Make a retro T-shirt
12 Novelist Bronte
13 Listen to
14 Suburb of St. Paul, Minn.
15 Jackie's "O"
16 Kind of Buddhist
17 Hairy Himalayan
25 Some Nevadans
28 Empress of Russia
29 Is suitable
30 — -night double-header
35 Vase-shaped jug
36 Sharp pain
38 With 111-Down, cul-de-sacs
39 Clutter-free
40 Price
41 Connecting strip of land: Abbr.
42 Feel remorse over
47 Beads on a brow
48 — halt to
49 Have — (park it)
50 Big name in gourmet chocolates
51 Flimflam
52 — Abdul-Jabbar
54 Greek vowel
56 Wall St. event
57 Construction beams
58 Wall St. locale
59 Boards, as a bus
64 Roofing material
65 Diplomat Powell
66 Bakery lure
67 Skyrockets
69 Touchy subject
70 To and —
71 Missus
72 Quick to learn
75 Gambling parlor, briefly
78 Sister, in Seville
80 Pakistani language
81 And others: Abbr.
82 John of New Age music
83 Residence, in Berlin
84 U-turn from NNE
85 It's a laugh
86 Guesses at JFK
87 Labeled anew
92 Santiago citizen
93 Compaq competitor
94 Coastal city
96 Friend of Fidel
97 Not too difficult
98 "Trading Places" actor Don
99 Scenic views
100 More disgusting
101 Delicately beautiful
106 Agassi of tennis
108 Epochs
109 Tick off
110 Orient
111 See 38-Down
112 Departs
113 Online info sheet
114 Kiwi kin
115 Vardalos or Long



answer on page D3

MaNo Po!
Mano Po, aTe!
STEPH BRAVO

Gabay Buhay Home

By Irene C. Perez

THERE'S a lot of "*mano po*" going on inside the Gabay Buhay Home. The moment you step in, a kid will take your hand and press it against his/her forehead, and the rest of them will follow.

Gabay Buhay, founded in 1993 by the Virlanie Foundation with the late Florence Capunong, houses 10 girls and 11 boys aged 7-21. These kids who were taken off the streets were orphaned, neglected or abandoned.

The house is spic and span, as each kid has his/her own chores written on colorful charts posted around the house. Pink is the dominant color in the girls' room, where F4 posters on the walls easily catch attention.

Anna (not her real name), 12, says she had no memory of her parents, real name or birthday. "Social workers found me on the streets at (age) 8. I don't know what I will do if I get to meet them. There are times when I get angry because they left me."

She proudly says she has her own savings from her P7 daily allowance, and the P150 she now has would go to school supplies.

Top 5 needs

Psychological and psychiatric tests
Tutors for English, Math and Science
Toiletries (soap, talcum powder, sanitary napkins)
Medicines and vitamins
21 pairs of school shoes

Marynel Basaysay, Gabay project coordinator, says that while they have a steady supply of food, the kids in the shelter need toiletries like soap, talcum powder and sanitary napkins, medicines and vitamins.

"Most of them are in puberty, *mga nagdadalaga at nagbibinata*," she explains.

And the kids could sure use a new component to replace the old one that bogged down some years back, she says.

Anna, for instance, loves belting out Carol Banawa, Sheryn Regis and Rachel Ann Go pieces in programs.

But more than material stuff, Basaysay said some of the kids are in urgent need of psychological and psychiatric help to address their feeling of desertion.

Karl (not his real name), a mentally retarded 12-year-old, is frequently called "*pasaway*" or stubborn in streetspeak. He is small for his age and his back is arched. He is so overactive that he transfers from one caretaker to another.

He has three tattoos. One is a question mark on his right hand, and two are in his right butt. One says "Saboy" and another is "BNG." Basaysay says it might have meant Bahala Na Gang.

Asked who marked him, Karl said it was his father.

"He might have been trained to steal," she says. "He opens other kids' lockers, takes food from the kitchen and some things in my office, too. But if asked, he would admit that he took the items and return them."

There was only one psychologist for the entire Virlanie Foundation, and he had recently resigned.

Apart from therapy, Basaysay said the kids are in need of tutors for English, Math and Science subjects.

For donations and inquiries, call Marynel Basaysay at 8982896, or Virlanie Foundation at 8962289. Gabay Buhay Home is at 209 Sunrise Ave., La Paz, Makati.

Caress Home

By Constantino C. Tejero

Top 5 needs

Blankets and mattresses
Kitchen and laundry utensils
Appliances such as dispenser, dish rack, TV set, electric fans, refrigerator
Clothes and personal belongings
Dining table

CARESS Home at 1602 Archimedes St., La Paz Village, Makati City, is one of Virlanie Foundation's 13 homes.

It is home for difficult children 7 years old and above with history of drugs, physical and sexual abuse. It is also home for neglected and abandoned children.

Its program and services include residential, scholarship-educational, psychiatric and psychological, medical, social, recreational, sports, talent development, volunteer services.

The boys live in an apartment with a dormitory-style bedroom for a maximum of 24. Today there are 19 boys in the home, with the youngest an 11-year-old stowaway, and the oldest at 22, another stowaway.

The latter is no longer a child, of course, but as he is still taking up a two-year technological course, the foundation has deemed it wise to have him finish his schooling before he would be discharged.

Most of these boys are stowaways. Some had been street beggars and solvent-users. One is a 12-year-old with a mentally unstable mother and a drug addict for a father.

In the home, they're overseen by project coordinator Faidah Cayongcat, social worker Ilene Lotino, and house parents Anna Abon and Pedro Calinisan.

Though given a homelike atmosphere, proper guidance and schooling by the foundation, the boys still have immediate needs.

Abon says some of the smaller boys sleep on the floor because, aside from the lack of double-deckers and the congestion in the room, it's not advisable for them to stay on an upper level.

STEPH BRAVO

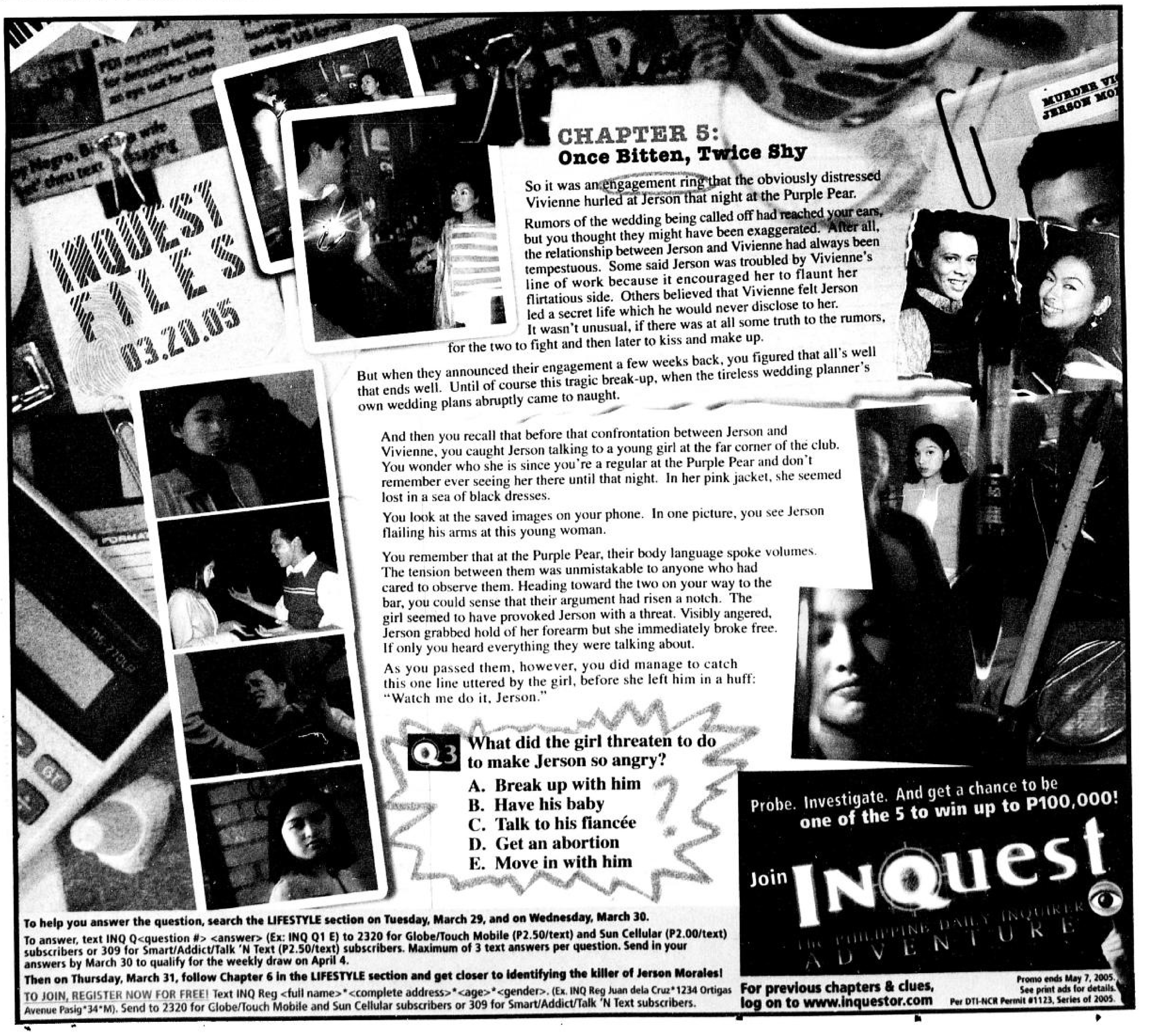
"*Malilikot kasi, masyadong* hyper," she explains. "*'Pag bata, hindi maiwasan 'yung naghaharutan.*"

Their biggest problem, she says, is a 16-year-old epileptic, who takes a maintenance drug at P21 a tablet thrice a day. "*Magastos.* May clinic *ang* Virlanie, *nagpapadala ng gamot galing sa* France, *pero hindi naman 'yun para sa kanya.*"

As of March, the Virlanie Foundation staff has identified the priority needs of Caress Home as the following:

1) Four bed sheets, 40 blankets, 10 double-deck beds, 10 mattresses, 20 pillowcases, 40 pillows
2) One assorted kettle, 1 big kettle, 1 big frying pan, 24 dinner plates, 24 drinking glasses, 24 forks, 24 spoons, 1 color TV set
3) One camera
4) One filing cabinet, 1 wooden sala set
5) One flatiron, 1 ironing board

For donations and inquiries, call Caress at 8977033, or the Virlanie Foundation at 8962289, 8955260 and 2972584.



CHAPTER 5:
Once Bitten, Twice Shy

So it was an engagement ring that the obviously distressed Vivienne hurled at Jerson that night at the Purple Pear.

Rumors of the wedding being called off had reached your ears, but you thought they might have been exaggerated. After all, the relationship between Jerson and Vivienne had always been tempestuous. Some said Jerson was troubled by Vivienne's line of work because it encouraged her to flaunt her flirtatious side. Others believed that Vivienne felt Jerson led a secret life which he would never disclose to her. It wasn't unusual, if there was at all some truth to the rumors, for the two to fight and then later to kiss and make up.

But when they announced their engagement a few weeks back, you figured that all's well that ends well. Until of course this tragic break-up, when the tireless wedding planner's own wedding plans abruptly came to naught.

And then you recall that before that confrontation between Jerson and Vivienne, you caught Jerson talking to a young girl at the far corner of the club. You wonder who she is since you're a regular at the Purple Pear and don't remember ever seeing her there until that night. In her pink jacket, she seemed lost in a sea of black dresses.

You look at the saved images on your phone. In one picture, you see Jerson flailing his arms at this young woman.

You remember that at the Purple Pear, their body language spoke volumes. The tension between them was unmistakable to anyone who had cared to observe them. Heading toward the two on your way to the bar, you could sense that their argument had risen a notch. The girl seemed to have provoked Jerson with a threat. Visibly angered, Jerson grabbed hold of her forearm but she immediately broke free. If only you heard everything they were talking about.

As you passed them, however, you did manage to catch this one line uttered by the girl, before she left him in a huff: "Watch me do it, Jerson."

Q3 What did the girl threaten to do to make Jerson so angry?

A. Break up with him
B. Have his baby
C. Talk to his fiancée
D. Get an abortion
E. Move in with him

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Then on Thursday, March 31, follow Chapter 6 in the LIFESTYLE section and get closer to identifying the killer of Jerson Morales!

TO JOIN, REGISTER NOW FOR FREE! Text INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender>. (Ex. INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz*1234 Ortigas Avenue Pasig*34*M). Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers.

For previous chapters & clues, log on to www.inquestor.com

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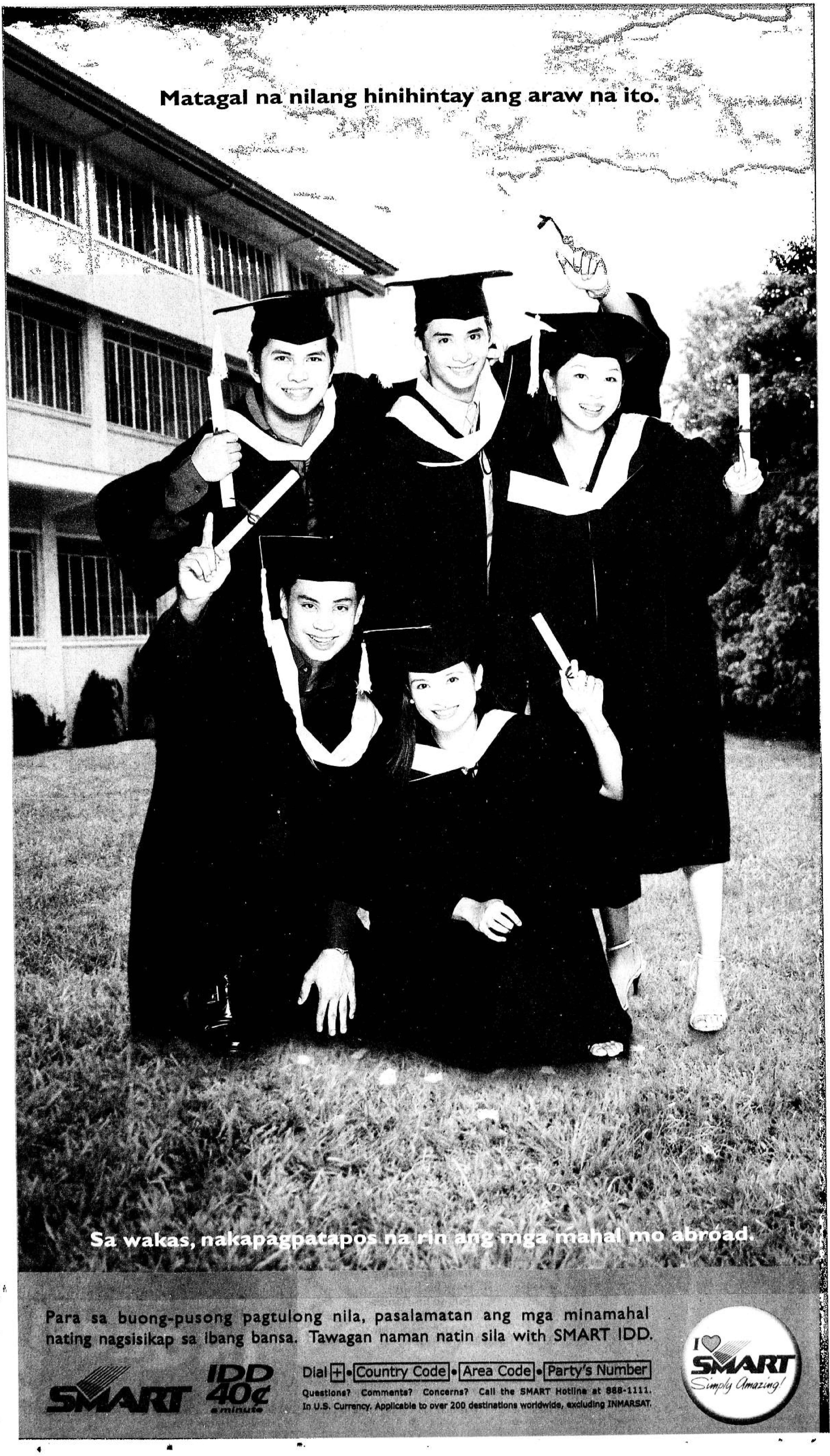

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Like Easter Christ, Bacolor church rises from the grave

A SMALLER altar on the right side of the church is up for restoration. In the foreground are antiques restorer Tom Joven and interior designer Jerome de Jesus.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

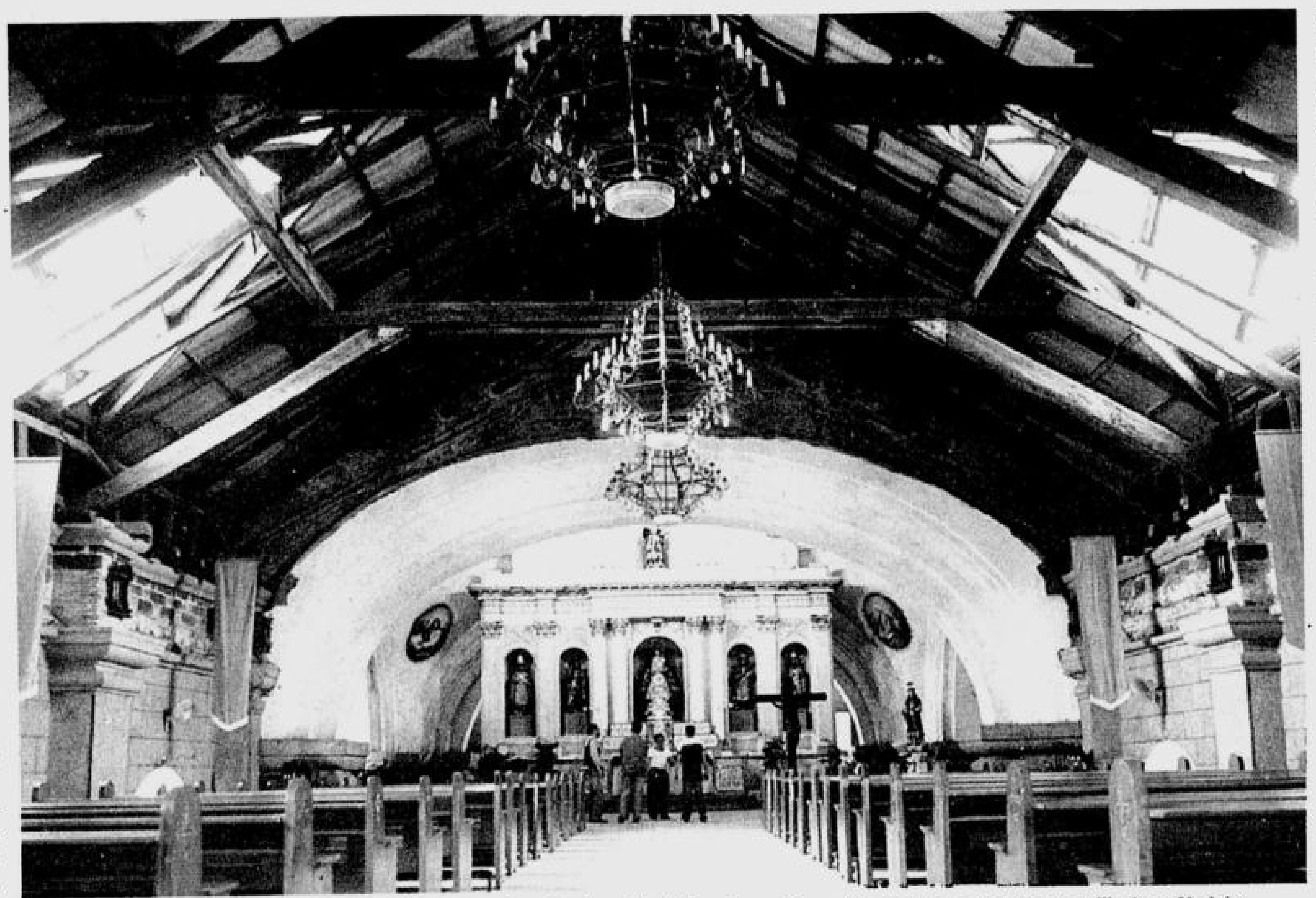
MANY Filipinos associate Holy Week with the passion and death of Jesus Christ, but for a good number of others, it's also a time of hope and personal resurrection. Nowhere is this more evident than in the lahar-devastated town of Bacolor, Pampanga, which is expected to spring back to life in the coming days as the pageantry of the Filipino Catholic Lenten season reaches its full dramatic flowering.

Bacolor was nearly obliterated from the map in the last decade. The pyroclastic material had been deposited on the slopes of Mt. Pinatubo during the eruption of 1991, and washed down by rains the years following that, bringing with it death and destruction. In 1995, the historic town was completely buried, the cross and spire of its tall centuries-old church barely peeking through the debris and detritus.

But since then, the town and its proud church have slowly climbed up from the grave.

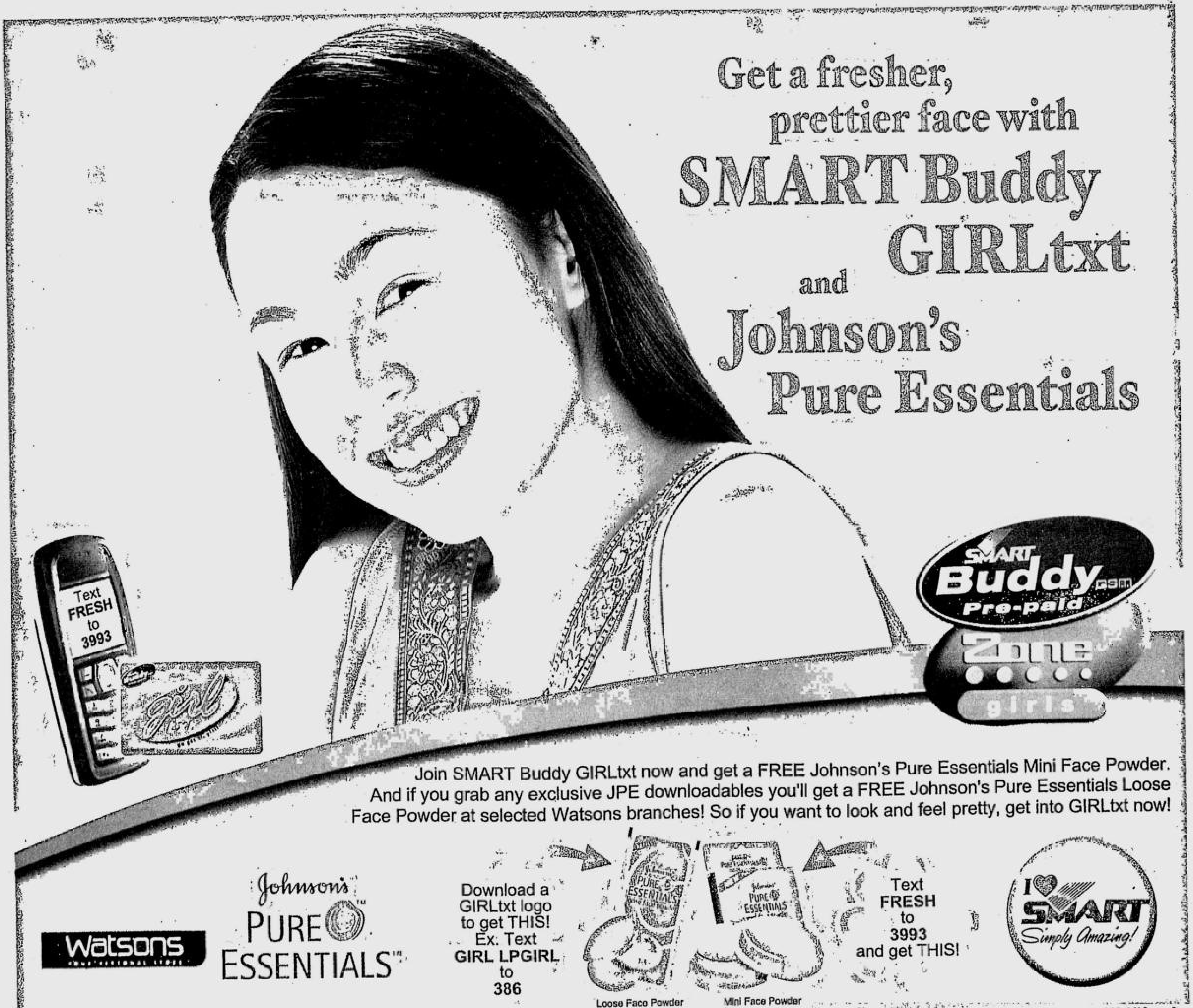
Now, local and foreign tourists on their way to Subic and other holiday destinations have included Bacolor's parish church in their itinerary during Holy Thursday's *visita iglesia*, the traditional pilgrimage to churches in the Catholic calendar.

LIKE/ D2



RAISED floor resulted in a raised altar that was moved to the church's loftier dome. The ceiling had to go to achieve an illusion of height.

Refusing to be written off, the Pampanga church has become a true shrine to the indomitable faith of a people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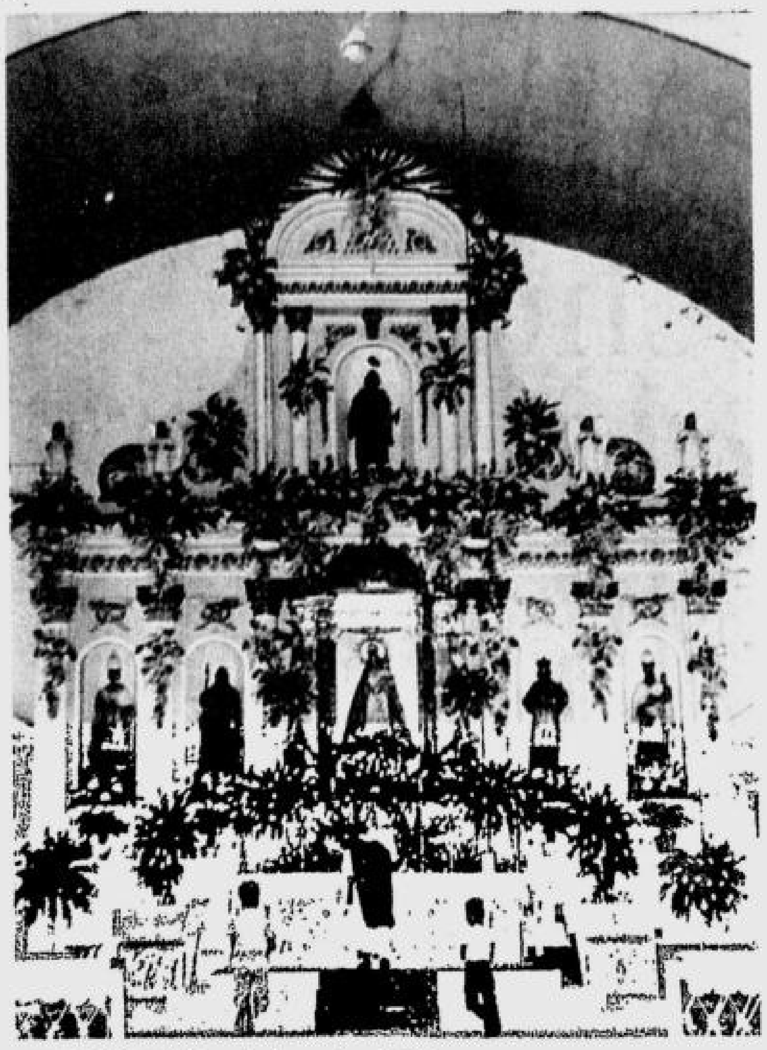
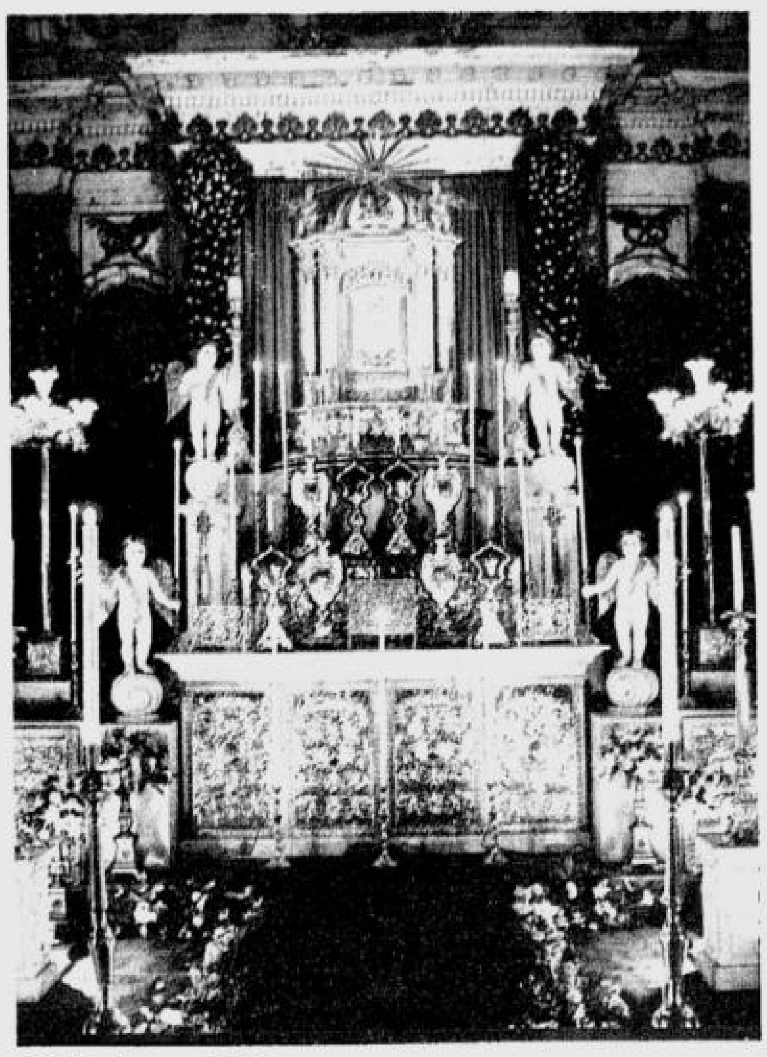
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1279 Series of 2005. See posters for details

FR. Nick Sabile, parish priest of San Guillermo de Aquitania Church

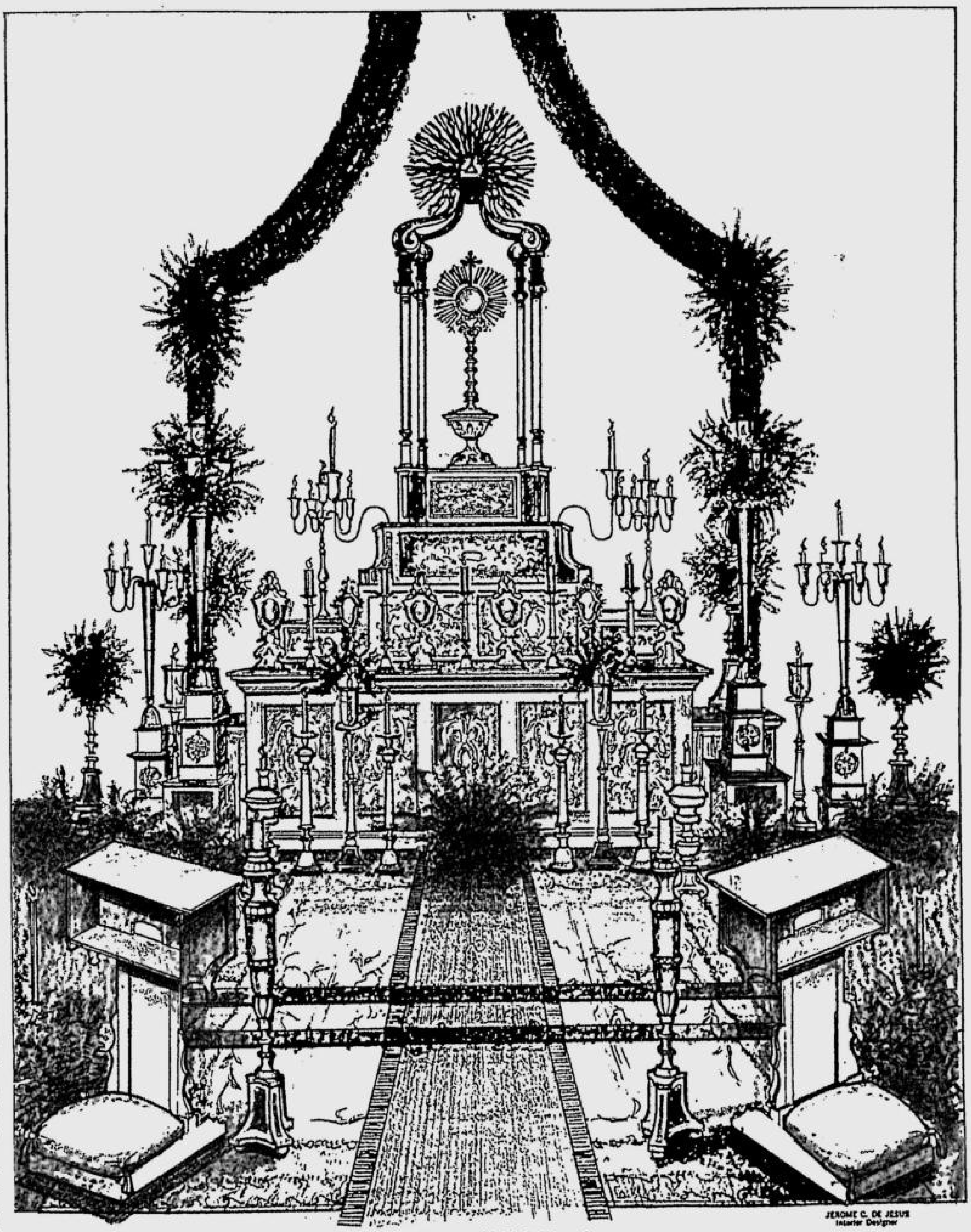


THE CHURCH'S main altar, circa 1950s



ALTAR of repose in 2003

Like Easter Christ, Bacolor church rises from the grave



ARTIST'S rendition of San Guillermo de Aquitania's altar of repose this Holy Thursday

From page D1

The Holy Week tradition has turned into a visual feast for the faithful, as some Catholic churches unwittingly outdo each other in building an elaborate "altar of repose" spruced up with countless flowers, church vessels and candles. Some churches have even resorted to using bamboo poles, garden rocks, fountains and even laser-like beams to feature the Holy Eucharist.

No-man's land

"There was a time when people deliberately skipped our town during Holy Week since there was really nothing to see. After lahar came, Bacolor became a virtual no-man's land," said Jerome de Jesus, a Manila-based interior and furniture designer whose ancestors hail from Bacolor. "We don't intend to compete with other churches by coming up with something exotic or flashy. Instead, we want to recreate an altar of repose the way the people of Bacolor did in the 19th century."

De Jesus and childhood friend Tom Joven, a restorer of church antiques and a native of Bacolor, have been in charge of doing the town's altar of repose since 2002. Since most of the church's silver pieces have either been lost through the centuries or buried fairly recently by lahar, the two have had to feature items from their respective collections or borrow from friends.

"We work with hired hands from Manila and a number of volunteers from the town," said De Jesus, who, like Joven, donates his time and services to the church during Holy Week.

Fr. Nick Sabile, the town's parish priest, has been quite receptive to their ideas. The young priest has given the two friends a free hand to oversee the project. As president of Bacolor's parish pastoral council, Joven has also made it his priority to work for the restoration and upkeep of the church.

But the pair's involvement dates back much earlier, soon after lahar almost wiped out Bacolor, forcing people to rebuild their homes elsewhere or move temporarily to cramped resettlement communities provided by the government.

"It was as if a part of us vanished overnight," said Joven. "My family and I were among the luckier ones since none of us died."

Joven can manage to laugh at it now, but most of them back then were angry. Why did Bacolor bear the brunt of lahar? It was only later that they began to understand that their beloved town served as a catch basin to save other towns and cities.

Like Joven, a number of residents have since returned to Bacolor to rebuild their disrupted lives. Not a few of its former inhabitants have also donated their time and money to help the town gain a semblance of its old self back. But it will take decades to undo what nature did to the town in a matter of hours.

"Not only were our lives disrupted, so were our traditions," said Joven. "Apart from helping deepen the faith, we hope that through such efforts as building an altar of repose we can also revive some of the town's dying traditions."

Reviving faith practices

One such practice among penitents during Holy Week is to relive the passion of Christ by walking around Bacolor carrying placards with certain Bible verses written in Latin, English and Kapampangan. As if walking under the scorching summer sun to spread God's words isn't hard enough, they have to do it covered in black cloth from head to toe.

"People were so busy rebuilding their lives that for a time nobody had the time nor the energy to take up the practice," said De Jesus. "Some children didn't even know that such a tradition exists. The situation started to change soon after the church was partly restored."

Indeed, if there's one structure that has become a virtual witness to the rise and fall of Bacolor's fortune through the centuries, it's the church, which was first built by Augustinian friars in 1576 in honor of San Guillermo de Aquitania, one of the town's patron saints (the other is Our Lady of La Naval). The church was again rebuilt in 1886 after an earthquake destroyed it in 1880.

When disaster of near-biblical proportions again struck Bacolor in 1995, the church again managed to stand, but barely.

Even before the last drop of lahar had solidified within and outside the church, the people of Bacolor were already divided on how to best deal with the disaster's effects: one group wanted the world to be reminded of it, while a bigger group wanted to forget about it as much as possible and move on.

Restoration

"Much as we would like to forget about it, we can't," said Father Sabile. "The destruction was simply too big for us to forget, but we can certainly do something to regain a part of ourselves back."

Thus, the church's restoration under Father Sabile's predecessor began in earnest. Through solicitations from companies and private individuals, a team began to unearth the partly submerged main altar in 1998. Fortunately, the church staff had saved six images on the altar, including that of San Guillermo de Aquitania, before it was completely engulfed by lahar.

Due to lack of funds, it took Joven and his collaborators almost six years to finally restore the main altar to its original condition, including repainting it light blue as it appeared centuries ago. They added several concrete platforms and electrical connections behind the altar.

Because the church's floor rose by almost 20 feet, the team also had to make a number of adjustments. The main altar, including a pair of smaller altars, for instance, was moved to a loftier area of the church where its dome is located.

The church's main doors are now but a memory. In their place are smaller entrances that were once windows made of stained glass by the choir loft.

After the raised sandy floor gave way to a concrete one, the ceiling was next to go, exposing the church's beams and giving it a rustic, industrial look. It was simply a choice between retaining the ceiling and giving the church added height.

"Our job is not yet finished," said Father Sabile, "but our major objective of restoring the main altar is already done. And by the grace of God, the people's faith have been strengthened as well as their resolve to carry on with their lives."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Special bank promo for call center workers

CALL CENTER professionals can win holiday trips and other exciting prizes by opening an account with East West Bank (EWB).

The Call Center Dive into Summer Promo, the latest East West Bank offering, is exclusive to employees of call centers.

To qualify, a call center officer or employee has to open a current or savings account at any participating branch.

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A customer gets one entry for every P5,000 additional single deposit. They also get one raffle entry for every P5,000 in excess of the minimum.

East West Bank Call Center Dive into Summer Promo is available at Main-Ayala, Valero, Ortigas-Tektite, Festival Mall II, and Cebu-A. Reyes East West Bank Personal Banking Centers (PBCs).

Deadline for submission of raffle entries is May 15. Raffle draw is on May 28 at East West Bank head office, PBCom Towers, Ayala Ave., Makati City.

Call 8-ACCESS (8222377).

Passion play in Valenzuela

MICHAEL King Urieta of the Gantimpala Theater Foundation's (GTF) Actors Company, directs "Via Cristo," to be shown on March 21, 7:30 p.m., at the Our Lady of Fatima Church, Valenzuela City.

Another performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., March 24, at Museo Valenzuela.

"Cristo" is a two-hour epic drama based on the Filipino "Pasyong Genesis" and depicts the life of Jesus Christ from his baptism to his resurrection.

It stars Ace Urieta, Angel de la Cruz, Kristel Garcia and Ronald Ramirez.

Cristo is an annual activity of the Valenzuela Community Theater. Call 2796294.

Hospicio marks another St. Joseph feast day

FOR 195 years since 1810, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and abandoned children and elderly in Hospicio de San Jose have enjoyed the protection and providence of St. Joseph.

In thanksgiving, the *hospicio* held nine-day Novena Masses capped by a fiesta celebration yesterday.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Since 1994 when Msgr. Josefino Ramirez put up the Friends of St. Joseph Foundation, attendance in the Novena Masses grew. An altar was put up in front of the chapel with an image of St. Joseph adorned with flowers.

Different priests celebrated Novena Masses sharing their thoughts and personal experiences with the saint.

Priests who said Masses this year were: Fr. Serafin Peralta, CM; Fr. Genaro Diwa; Fr. Anselmo Manalastas, OSB; Fr. Rolando Agustin; Fr. Victor Robles; Msgr. Josefino Ramirez; Fr. Marcelo Manimtim; Fr. Sammy Loterte, SSS; Fr. Jose Cesar Marin, SJ; and Bishop Emeritus Raul Martirez, with Msgr. Arsenio Bautista as co-presider and Fr. Daniel Franklin Pelario, CM, homilist.

Yesterday, feast of St. Joseph, the pilgrim image was carried in a procession around the compound. A reunion of *hospicio* wards who have left, are now working and married was held in the morning. *Hermana mayor* this year was Teresa Chan.

Special affection

The Friends of St. Joseph Foundation was blessed to be part of preparations for the fiesta. We learned to be more trusting in God through St. Joseph's intercession, especially when St. Teresa de Avila said, "Whatever you ask of St. Joseph, you will receive."

What is most effective is the Holy Cloak Novena prayed for 30 days. In the course of the novena, miracles would already happen.

I asked Fr. Rony Alkonga, OSJ, why there seemed to be a special affection for this saint. He said we felt like St. Joseph was our father.

Lawyer Asuncion Kalalo's house is a testament to her great love for the saint. Every corner has framed pictures, images and paintings of the saint.

Tita Siony's devotion began after graduating from the University of the Philippines College of Law. A devotee in her hometown of San Jose, Batangas went around asking people to offer Masses to St. Joseph. At that time, P20 could help seminarians.

In 1989, Tita Siony began collecting pictures and images of St. Joseph. Novena Masses are held in her house March 10-19 with the permission of the parish priest.

St. Joseph Church

Three years ago, the parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Cabalantian, Bacolor, Pampanga started plans for the construction of a new church. The old one was buried in *lahar* when Mt. Pinatubo erupted.

They held fundraising concerts and solicited donations.

Dr. Salve Olalia said another fundraising concert would be held at Merck's in Greenbelt 3 at 9 p.m., April 14. Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez will perform in a musical comedy. For tickets, text 0918-9056108 or 7574721.

Architect Yolanda Reyes designed the church, which would cost P25 million. The construction committee is determined, wanting future generations to have a beautiful and durable church.

Passion play

For the first time in its history, Ermita Church will hold a passion play, "Ito ang Aking Katawan," at 7 p.m., Holy Wednesday, March 23. Performing are members of the Parish Youth Ministry. The public is invited.

Concert series

Casa San Miguel in San Antonio, Zambales will hold the "Kuwaresma" concert series during Holy Week. Marking the 12th season of the Pundaquit Festival, the series opens at 6 p.m., March 20, with the Loboc Children's Choir and the Pundaquit Virtuosi.

On Good Friday, March 25, there will be a candlelight performance of Haydn's "Seven Last Words." A joyous Easter Sunday concert on March 27 will feature the Pundaquit Virtuosi with tenor Ronan Ferrer, soprano Maria Saporsantos and baritone Chris Ong in Bach's Coffee Cantata and other favorite arias.

PILGRIM image of St. Joseph belonging to the Friends of St. Joseph

For those planning to stay for the weekend, Subic Legend Hotel at the Subic Freeport and Nina's Papagayo on Barretto, Olongapo City, offer discounts. Just show validated tickets.

Concerts start at 6 p.m. Call 9038657 and 9332392, or e-mail cokebolipata@yahoo.com.

Recollection

The Chapel of Our Mother of Grace and the Eucharist in Barrio San Vicente, Santa Maria, Bulacan will hold a Lenten Recollection 9 a.m.-12 noon, Black Saturday, March 26. Speakers are Fr. Rodel Ponce, Bro. Lito Folloso and healer Carmelo Cortez.

New songs

The 20 new songs in Hangad's new album, "Easter Sunday," were written by members Paulo Tirol, Nicky Reyes, and Michelle Joy Francia and feature a variety of musical styles. They range from Mary's story of Christ's death in the moving solo "Pieta," to the celebration of His rising in the powerful a capella piece "Praise Be to God."

Among the new compositions are responses to the various parts of the Mass such as "Alleluia," "Holy" and "Lamb of God."

Compact discs and cassettes are available in record stores nationwide, Tanging Yaman kiosks at SM Megamall and SM North Edsa, and the Loyola House of Studies and Jesuit Communications store at the Ateneo de Manila University. Visit www.eaglescorner.com

Calbiga fiesta

The nine-Sunday novena in honor of Our Lady of the Annunciation by Metro Manila residents from Calbiga, Samar ends today, at the St. Ignatius Cathedral in Camp Aguinaldo. The Seludo clan has led this novena for years.

Fiesta celebration will be on March 27 at the Peninsula Hotel. *Hermanas* are Marietta Seludo Copada and Marilou Seludo Copada-Palo, daughters of Edith Copada.

HERMANA Teresa Chan and Sister Kit Legaspi cut the ribbon to open the exhibit.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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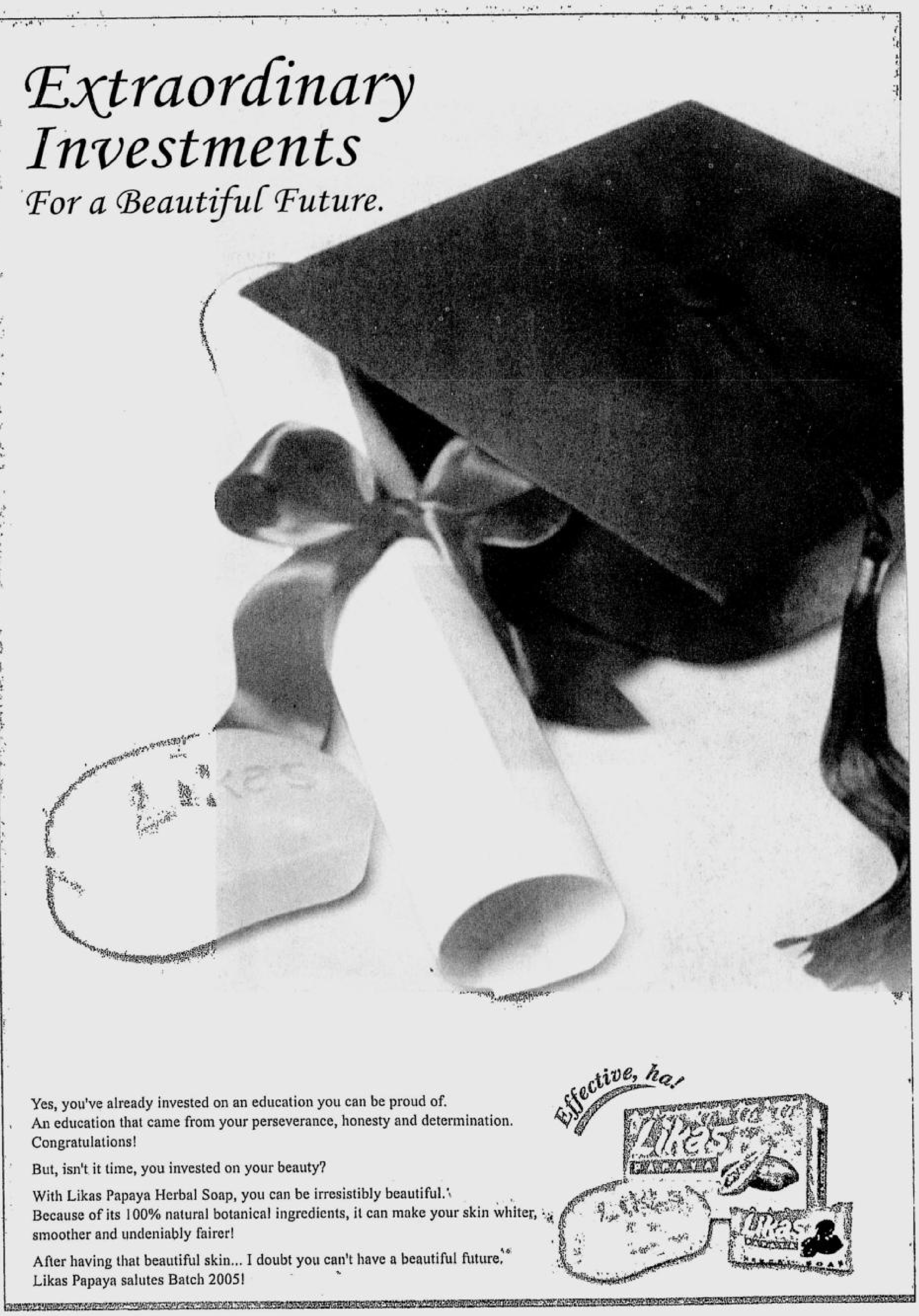

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A scenic way to do the traditional 'Via Crucis'

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Jude Thaddeus L. Bautista

THIS is the best time for that scenic drive along the less-traveled lakeside route leading to Eastern Laguna.

The view around Laguna de Bay and of the rice farms at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain is clearest. Farms are green with young *palay*. Now and then, idyllic scenes come alive with swooping hawks and white egrets.

But a more irresistible force pulls one to this route, especially this Lenten season—the quaint old churches with centuries-old Stations of the Cross, altars, and religious images.

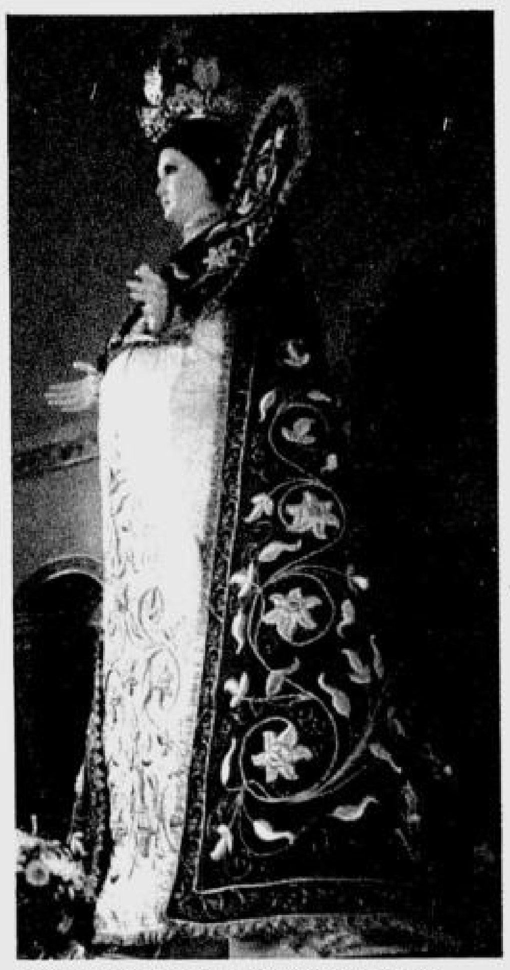
In several well-known Spanish-era churches, the old altar, icons and paintings are religiously tended by the local folks the same way their predecessors did hundreds of years ago. Old paintings of the Stations of the Cross draw throngs of *via-crucis* devotees every Lenten season.

There are actually two main routes to Eastern Laguna—via the South Luzon Expressway and the Rizal-to-Laguna route. A recent tour of Eastern Laguna churches went the Rizal way. It was an opportunity to see up close Laguna de Bay, one of the largest lakes in the world.

First stop was Mabitac town. From there the group visited Sta. Maria, Pakil, Siniloan, Pangil, Paete, Kalayaan and Lumban.

An 'immigrant'

Enshrined in the church built by the Franciscan friars in 1800, the Virgin Mary of Candles has survived floods, fire and earthquake. Originally from Plaza Dilaw in Paco, Manila, it was first brought to a chapel in Los Baños before given a permanent home in Mabitac.



UNIQUE to Pangil, one of the country's oldest towns, is the pregnant Virgin Mary the locals fondly call "Mahal na Birhen de la La O," supposedly a gift from Spain's Prince Carlos in the 18th century.

The Nuestra Señora de Candelaria Church was built on top of a hill called *bundok ng kalbaryo* to protect it from floods. Devotees climb 126 steps to reach it.

The church is a testimony to the community's devotion to the Virgin Mary. Historical accounts say when the church was devastated by earthquake, every devotee brought one block of stone every day until rehabilitation was completed. And when the church was burning during World War II, the townspeople formed a fire brigade, forming a long line to pass buckets of water from the river to the church.

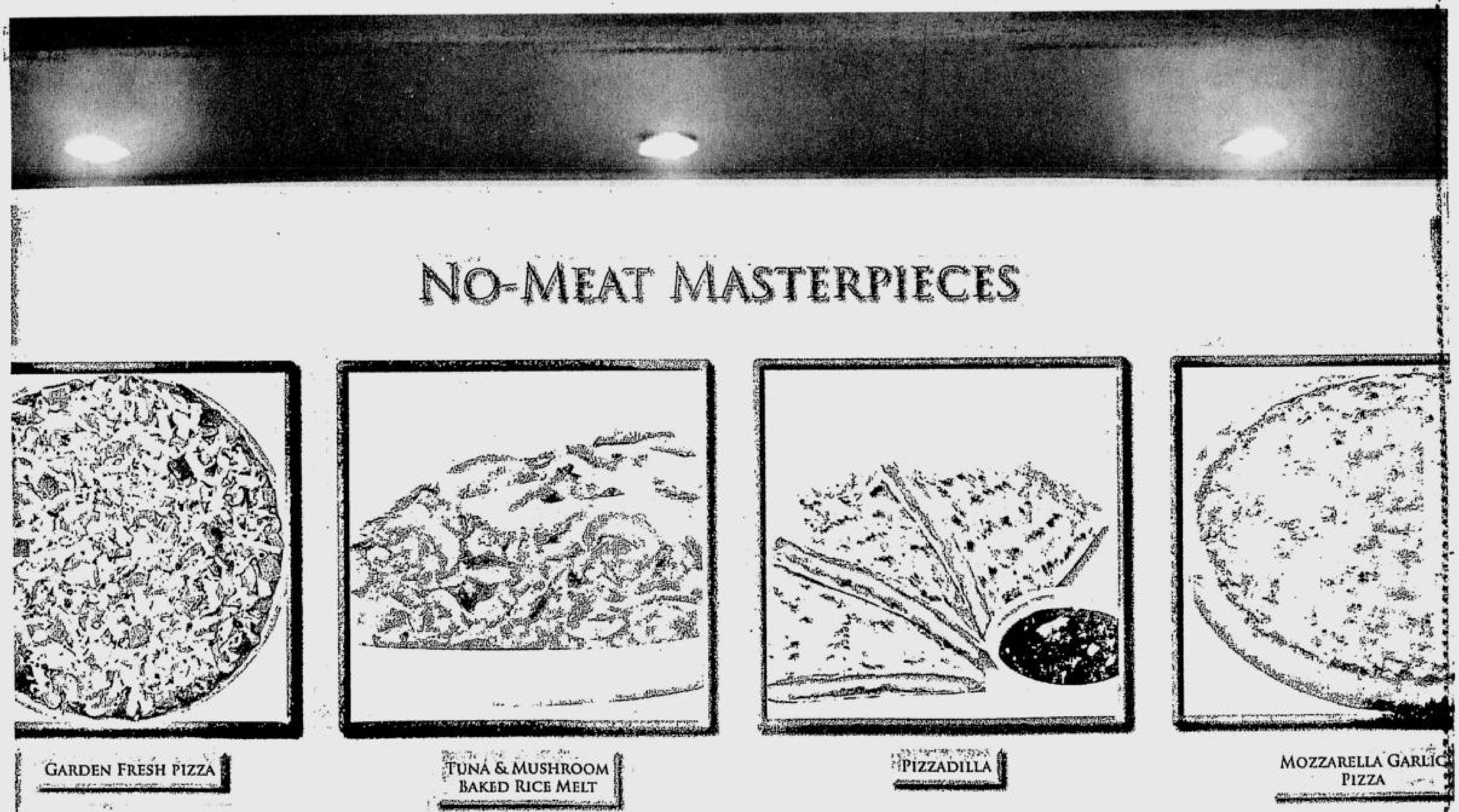
Old bells

The out-of-the-way town of Santa Maria takes pride in its 400-year-old church dedicated to Nuestra Sra. de los Angeles. The church is noted for its old bells.

Nestled at the foot of a mountain, Sta. Maria is known for its bountiful agricultural harvest, which some locals ascribe to their patroness. Throughout the year, the rich land yields *lanzones*, citrus, *rambutan*, papaya,

A SCENIC/ E2

HOT food and drinks at brightly lighted Exotic Garden Restaurant await weary travelers after touring Eastern Laguna's churches.



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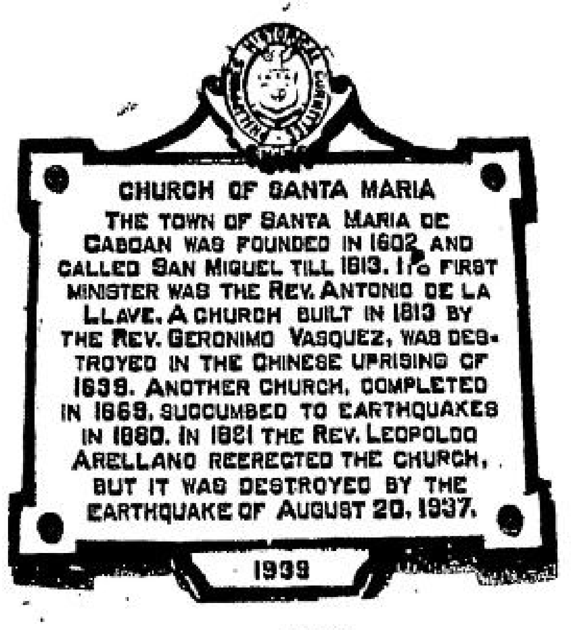
ka-g greenwich

An irresistible force draws people to Eastern Laguna during the Lenten season—quaint old churches with centuries-old Stations of the Cross



CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA
THE TOWN OF SANTA MARIA DE CABOAN WAS FOUNDED IN 1602 AND CALLED SAN MIGUEL TILL 1613. ITS FIRST MINISTER WAS THE REV. ANTONIO DE LA LLAVE. A CHURCH BUILT IN 1613 BY THE REV. GERONIMO VASQUEZ, WAS DESTROYED IN THE CHINESE UPRISING OF 1639. ANOTHER CHURCH, COMPLETED IN 1669, SUCCUMBED TO EARTHQUAKES IN 1880. IN 1881 THE REV. LEOPOLDO ARELLANO REERECTED THE CHURCH, BUT IT WAS DESTROYED BY THE EARTHQUAKE OF AUGUST 20, 1937.
1939

A TYPICAL church plaque gives details of the old churches found in Eastern Laguna.

A scenic way to do the traditional 'Via Crucis'

THE TRADITIONAL festival of Turumba is held at the San Pedro de Alcantara Church of Pakil. It is a tribute to the Virgin of Turumba, circa 1788.

From page E1

and rootcrops.

Pregnant patroness

Pangil town's Our Lady of Nativity Church is one of the oldest churches in the Philippines and is known for a unique statue of a pregnant Virgin Mary, said to be a gift from King Carlos III of Spain.

Indeed, the town and the church are rich in oral history. It is said that before he became a king, the then Prince Carlos lived for two years in a convent in Pangil. When he returned to Spain and was crowned king, he sent two images to Pangil—the Santo Niño de LaO and a pregnant Virgin Mary known as Birhen de LaO. The pregnant Our Lady of de LaO became the patron saint of women who wanted to be pregnant.

Miraculous

Enshrined in the San Pedro de Alcantara Church, the oldest church of Pakil and built in 1788, is the famous Virgin of Turumba. Townspeople believe the statue is miraculous and has devoted to her a famous dance procession called "Turumba" in which devotees line for a chance to carry the Virgin and dance with it.

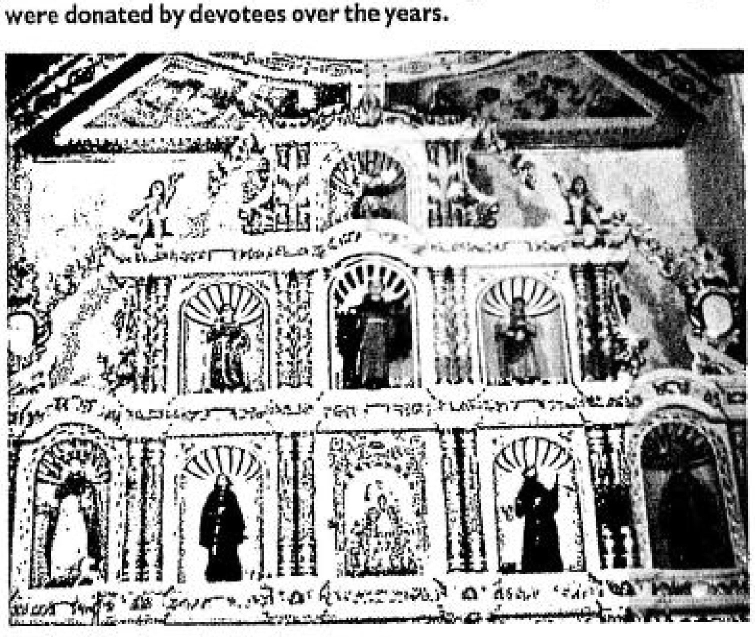
The old Franciscan church is also known for its ornate architecture with dominant Corinthian and Ionic styles. Its unique altar has 14 icons in gilded niches, the towering statue of Archangel Michael, and the original painting of Jose Dans, a famous painter of Paete.

The church has a beautiful series of the Stations of the Cross made by local artists.

Apostle's church

Home of noted carvers and papier-mache artists of Laguna, Paete has a Spanish-era church dedicated to the apostle St. James. What is unique about this church are the baroque-style altar and many religious figures carved and painted by local artists of long ago.

JEWEL-STUDDED crowns and clothes are typical of religious images in Eastern Laguna churches. The precious stones were donated by devotees over the years.



ELABORATELY carved niches deck the main altar of the 240-year-old church of Pakil. Each niche has 14 icons.

Even more awe-inspiring are the original murals of Jose Dans, who used natural color pigments mixed with volcanic ash and brushes made from cats' hair.

Exotic finale

Dinner and entertainment at the Exotic Garden Restaurant in Kalayaan is a fitting finale to the tour of Eastern Laguna's old churches. Owners Elmo Afurong and Roy Emma serve a rich assortment of Laguna's traditional cuisine.

Located along the main highway, the restaurant is hard to miss. At night, it is ablaze with colorful lights. By day, it is a virtual garden show with every inch of space planted to ornamental plants and trees. Sitting on 3,500 sq m of a hilly area, it can accommodate 1,200 persons, and has dining areas, pavilions for conferences, and cottages.

Call or text Inier Candor, CEO of Events-Media Marketing Inc. at 0917-7352711 and 7515200.

Holy Week getaway

THIS coming Holy Week, March 21-27, Diamond Hotel offers its Holy Week getaway promotional room rates. Get one Superior room for two consecutive nights or two Superior rooms on the same night, for P5,500 net. This rate is inclusive of buffet breakfast for two persons per room at the Palm Court Cafe. The second package makes one Superior room available for one night at only P3,300 net. This is inclusive of breakfast for two persons at the Palm Court Café. The rates are for Filipino local residents and expatriates with Alien Certificate of Residency.

Getaway package

Hotel Pontefino in Batangas City offers a Holy Week package designed for whole families. A family of two adults and two children under 10 years old will pay only P6,000+ for an overnight stay. An additional P1,500+ will be charged per extra adult and P1,000+ per extra child.

Hotel Pontefino's Holy Week Package includes overnight accommodation in a premium room with buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner. Executive chef Dennis Edillon Jr. has prepared a special Lenten menu with fresh seafood, pasta and newly harvested vegetables.

Hotel PonteFino is at Pastor Village, Gulod Labac, Batangas City. Call (02)4372103 and 4213466; or (043)7233466. Visit www.pontefino.com.ph.

Visita Iglesia package

Recharge your body and soul with the Holiday Inn's Visita Iglesia Package (VIP). It offers accommodation and activities for only P7,300+. The package includes two nights accommodation in a Deluxe Room with buffet breakfast for two at the Raphael Cafe Restaurant for two days; buffet lunch or dinner for two at the cafe for one day; 30-percent discount on additional buffet meals at the Raphael; and Visita Iglesia activity on Maundy Thursday, March 24. Guests who want to extend their stay will add P2,700 net for every succeeding night, inclusive of buffet breakfast for two.

Holy Land tour

A pilgrimage tour of the Holy Land in Israel, plus historic and religious sites in Jordan, has been set for May 25-June 3. The tour begins with a visit to Amman, Madaba, Mt. Nebo and Petra in Jordan. Also in the itinerary are Yardenit, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Tagbha, Mt. of Beatitudes, Mt. Tabor, Cana, Nazareth, Ceasarea, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, All Nations Church, Dominus Flevit, Mt. Zion, St. Peter's Church in Gallicantu, Dormition Abbey, Old City, Pool of Bethsaida, Holy Sepulchre Church, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, among others. Fr. Gerry Tapiador, a biblical expert, is the pilgrimage chaplain.

Call 8154938 or 8156925 or visit Windsor Tower, 163 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati City.

A stress-free Holy Week

While the rest of the teeming population suffer in the summer heat and monstrous traffic, spend some time of contemplation in peace and restful quiet right here in the city with The Sulo Hotel's Holy Week room package.

For P2,100 net on deluxe rooms, or P1,800 net on standard rooms, local guests can enjoy a Lenten respite on single or double occupancy, with kids below 12 years old free of charge. This package includes complimentary Continental, Sulo Traditional, or New Yorker breakfast for two guests, complimentary daily newspaper and bottled water, free use of the outdoor swimming pool, and free guarded parking space. Extra bed rate is P500 net, plus extra breakfast charges.

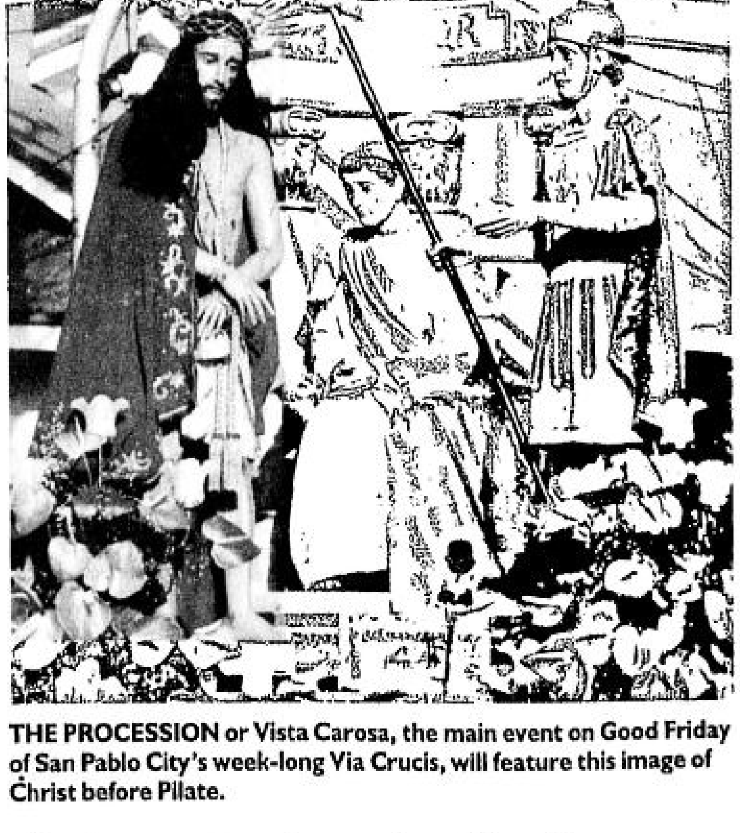
The Sulo Hotel is on Matalino Road, Diliman Quezon City. Call 9245051 to 71, local 662 or 686.

Week-long Via Crucis in San Pablo

San Pablo City will hold its first ever week-long Via Crucis at the Sampaloc Lake. From March 19-26, there will be *pabasa* and *senakulo*. Good Friday features the Procession or Vista Carosa, and The Seven Last Words, a stage play by the lake performed by Maskara Inc.

At 4 a.m., Easter Sunday, March 27, is the Salubong.

The project was conceived by Arthur T. Reyes, president and CEO of ATR Torres Wines International, and supported by Conrado Escudero of the famed Villa Escudero.



THE PROCESSION or Vista Carosa, the main event on Good Friday of San Pablo City's week-long Via Crucis, will feature this image of Christ before Pilate.

Lenten promo

Seven Suites in Antipolo City offers the Lenten Room Promo on March 21-27. The Mythical Suites will be available for P2,000+, the Romance Suites for P2,500+ and the Star Suites for P2,200+, inclusive of breakfast and dinner for two.

Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. Call 6775401 to 02/ 2405093/ 9268985.

Dare she love again?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I am legally separated in our country. My husband and I separated in 1998 after I got fed up with all his indiscretions.

He had affairs with my 17-year-old niece, the office receptionist and later the office manager. He even had flings with very young girls—"campus tour," we called it.

The good relationship between my ex-husband and college-age son ended when he caught his father talking to a girlfriend using our phone when he visited us at home. My husband has lost his son's respect and mine, too.

Though we've separated, I had to spend millions to bail him out of his debts. He has become so unkempt, it is disgusting. He has forgotten his personal hygiene, looks like a fat slob and acts like a bum.

I have dual citizenship and got divorced years ago which is not recognized here. My problem is, there's a dear friend who is so wonderful to me. He has a very good job abroad. We see each other often because of my constant traveling. We are in close touch by e-mail and phone calls.

He knows all my problems and I know his. When his wife left him seven years ago, I was the first person he called. When his sister died, he came to me directly from the airport.

I learned of his feelings for me when I read an e-mail he wrote to a common close friend of ours. The e-mail said basically that I'd been the woman for him—and that I got between him and his wife and other women all these years. He is in love with me, but isn't sure what I feel for him.

My friends are telling me to go for it. I've been through so much pain that I don't want to be in love or get married again. I don't want to hurt him but I also don't want to lose him.

LIN

You have suffered all these years, thrown away millions for that philandering husband, and yet you would not gamble for a seemingly brighter tomorrow life is trying to hand you on a silver platter.

Of course you've been burned financially, battered emotionally and suffered to the core that you are ready to give up on love. That's understandable.

But, don't you want to be adored and be the recipient of affection for a change? Set aside your cynicism and stop re-living old pains. You deserve a treat.

Whether you'll have Christmas every day or just one big party with this sweet man remains to be seen. But what have you got to lose? You have nowhere to go but up.

Though nothing is ever sure in this world, remember the saying nothing ventured, nothing gained. And, in case you haven't heard, life is too short to be miserable. Just go for it.

Two-timing BF

I am 25 years old and I have a boyfriend of one year. He and I were already planning to get married when a third party suddenly came into the picture. She is a boarder in the same house where my boyfriend is staying.

We were already going steady for 10 months when I found out they had become text mates. My boyfriend told me I had nothing to worry about because I was the only one for him.

The situation got worse when the girl broke up with her long-time beau because of my boyfriend. I took the initiative to stay away from him despite what he was telling me because I knew he was lying and that he and the girl were really already involved.

During the holidays, I vowed not to let him know how much I was hurting. I played it cool and pretended to be his friend. I noticed he had changed and he treated me much better than before.

I don't want to hope that he wants to come back to me because he and the other girl are still together in the boarding house. I don't want to go through the same pain.

What should I do to make sure that I can trust him again and that he deserves a second chance?

TINYA

Isn't it wonderful that he changed for the better when you played it cool? Men are the eternal butterflies.

The more you chase them, the faster they fly away from you. They are also natural hunters. If you want him back to stay and be serious this time, get as far away from him as you can, and continue being indifferent.

If he truly cared for you once, this will make him huff and puff—guessing and worrying whether or not he can win you back. But be friendly enough while keeping him at arm's length.

It will be difficult at first not to succumb to his efforts, especially when your exploding heart wants to accept him already. But play it cool. Play hard to get. Your reward could very well be a trip... to the altar.

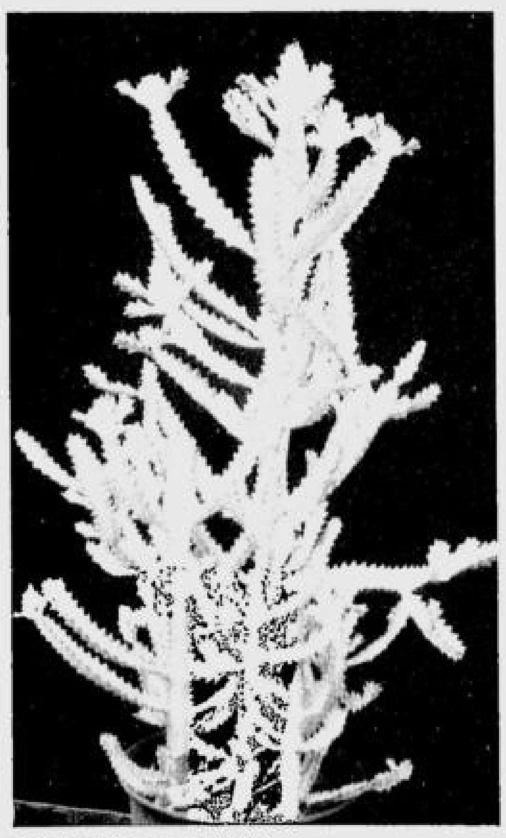
E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM*

Prayers at bombing site

LEADERS of different religions will offer prayers for healing and reconciliation at 2 p.m., March 21, at the site of the recent bus bombing on Ayala Ave., Makati City.

After the interfaith prayers in Makati, the group will have a motorcade along Edsa towards the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

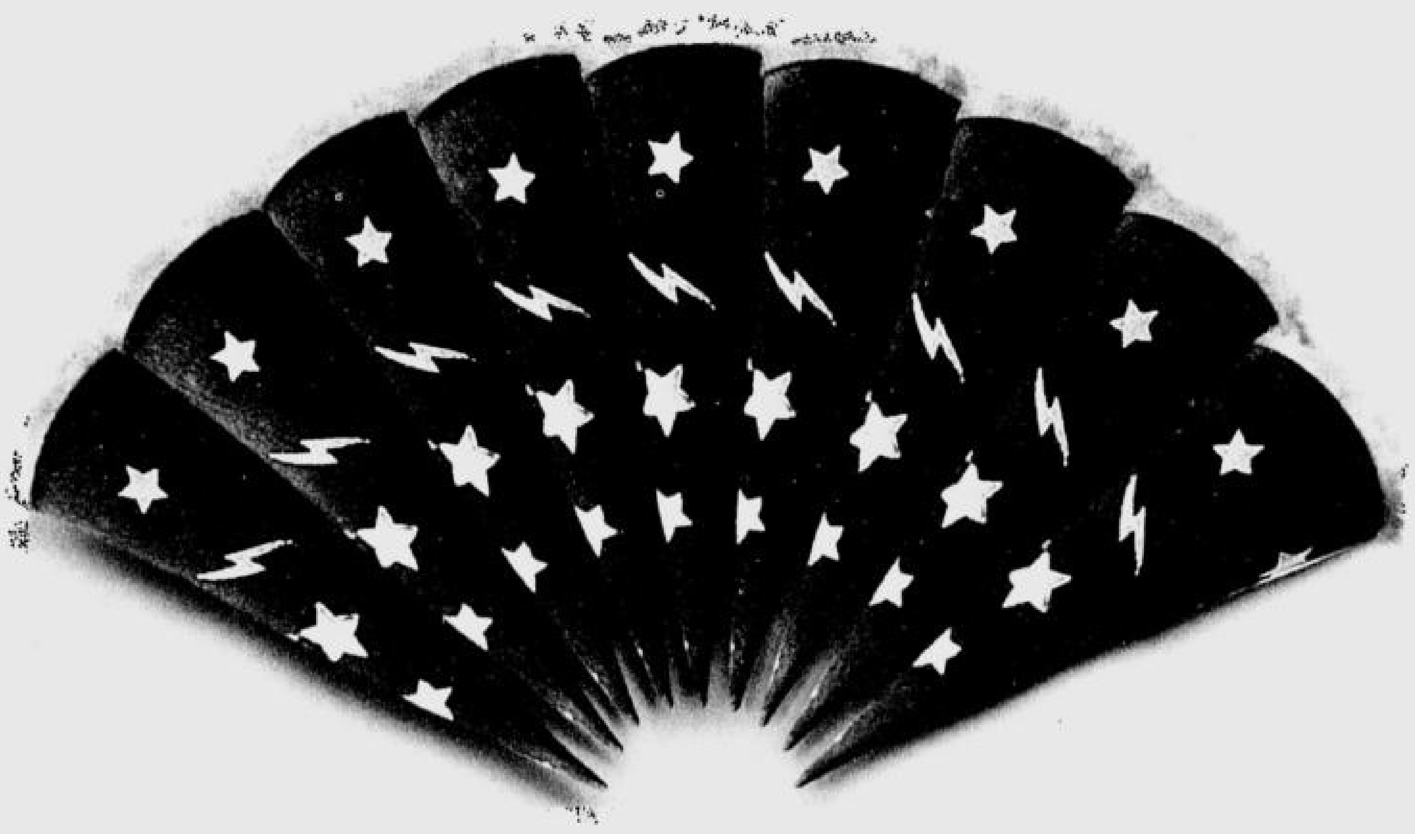
Call The Peacemakers' Circle at 7211379 or 0917-538-9358. Fax 7277108. E-mail shekinah8@i-manila.com.ph or visit peacemakerscircle_uri@yahoo.com



LOS BAÑOS SHOW
Cacti and succulents will be the featured plants at the Los Baños Flower and Garden Show April 15-24, Senior Social Garden, UP Los Baños. Euphorbias will be on sale.

A thought from a non-reader.
A mind on the blink can be a real turn-off. If you need a bit of stimulation, try reading for a change. Just a thought.

Read more. Be more. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



Have a truly enchanting Easter with us.

Presented with Enchanted Kingdom
In cooperation with
Special thanks to event manager
events

Happening on March 27.
Enjoy the thrills of Enchanted Kingdom when you stay at Mandarin Oriental Manila this Easter. Attractions include a theme park set replete with magical characters. The highlight of the festivity is the biggest of egg hunts – "The BIG Egg Hunt" – which offers three hunts where exciting gifts await you. From overnight accommodations for two with breakfast, to adorable rabbits and chicks, plus toys and Easter goodies.

Activities after the registration at 9:00 a.m.
9.15 Egg Hunt 1, Clipper Lounge. 9.20 The Big Easter Parade with the Enchanted Kingdom theme park characters, Clipper Lounge to the Ballroom. 9.30 Fairground activities, Ballroom. Egg painting contest, Art competition, Face painting corner and Kiddie Salon, Photo and food corners plus Games. 10.15 Egg Hunt 2, Redemption of special prizes. 10.30 "The Dino Rock Concert". 11.00 Magic Show. 11.30 Awarding of winners. Egg painting contest and Art competition. 11:40 Hunt for the Silver, Gold, and Green Eggs, Awarding of major prizes. 12 noon End

Easter Special at Tin Hau and Paseo Uno
Buffet lunch at Tin Hau (PhP1,288++ adult/PhP688++ child 5 - 12 years) and Paseo Uno (PhP1,380++ adult, PhP690++ child 5 - 12 years) include "The BIG Egg Hunt" ticket.

Easter Room Packages
Packages include breakfast for two and 2 complimentary tickets per room for "The BIG Egg Hunt". Packages begin at PhP3,800++.

Easter Special at the Mandarin Deli
Easter hampers are available from PhP1,000+ to PhP1,800+

For enquiries, call 750 8888 extension 2303 to 2305 (room reservations) and extension 2415 (buffet lunch/tickets).

MANDARIN ORIENTAL
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Where are you headed this Holy Week?

SMART Buddy GSM Pre-paid

Zone inspirations

Soul Food

Find your way closer to God with Soul Food from SMART 286.
Feed and nourish your soul with the Word of God. Nurture your spirit and refresh your inner self with inspiring stories of faith and devotion.

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BIBLE

Get Bible verses to inspire you
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KIDS PRAISE

Bible verses, facts and inspiring stories for kids
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Discipleship tips for teens
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BOOKS

Learn how to be a good leader through John C. Maxwell's book, "Leadership Promises for Every Day".
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INSIGHTS & REFLECTIONS

Daily devotionals and hymns to inspire you
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Other Info on Demand Services

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Daily romantic notes to get you into a sentimental mood.
Text PINOY ON / LUV ON / FRIEND ON / DIST ON to 286
Ex: PINOY ON
For more details, text SENTI to 286

HOROSCOPE
Have your horoscope reading sent to your phone daily.
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Ex: FUNSCOPE ON
For more details, text HSCOPE HELP to 286

JOKES
Get a dose of laughter
Text LAFF ON / TWIST ON to 286
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SCOOP
Get the latest in showbiz before you read it in the news, hear it on the radio or watch it on TV.
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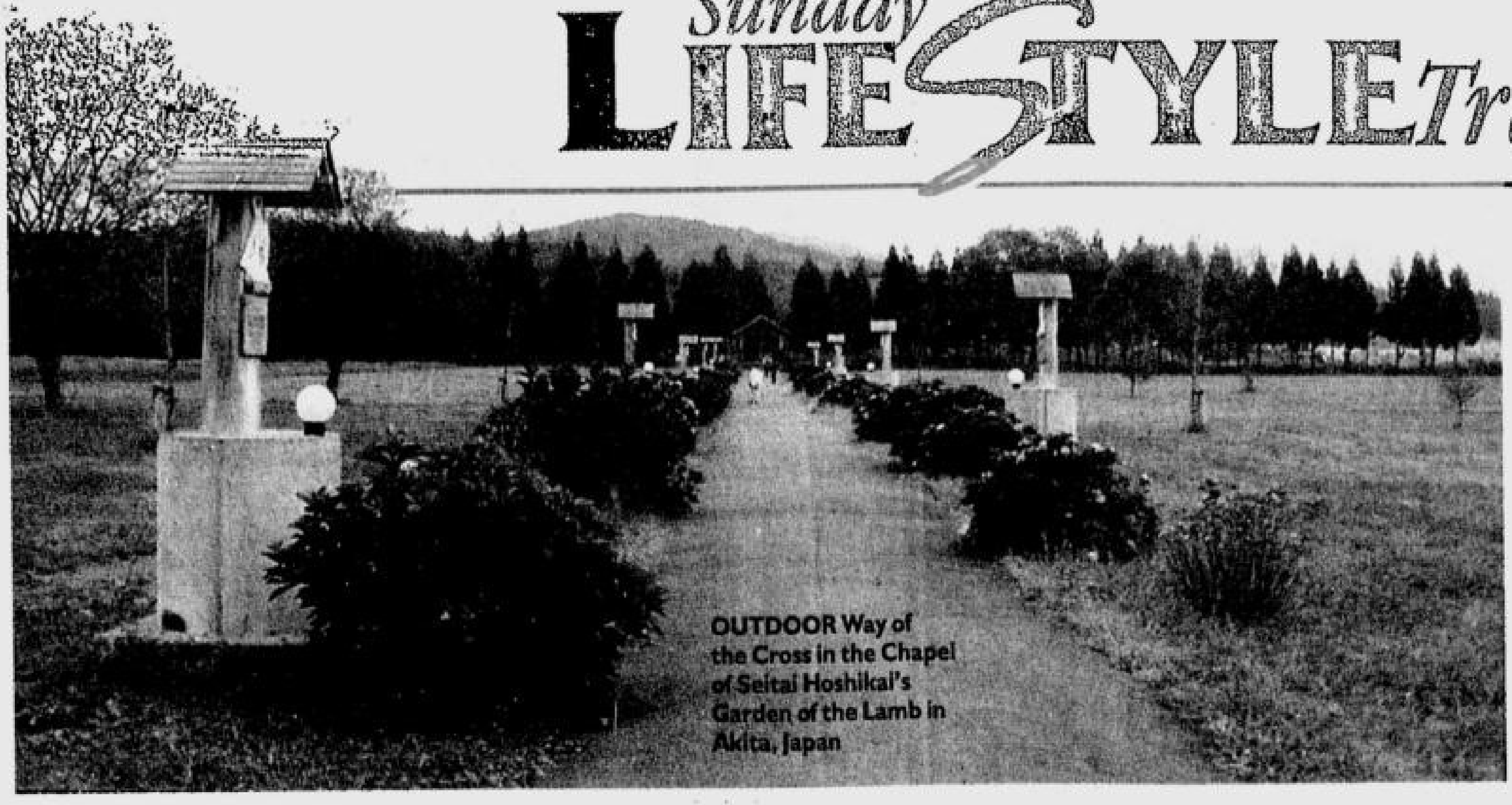
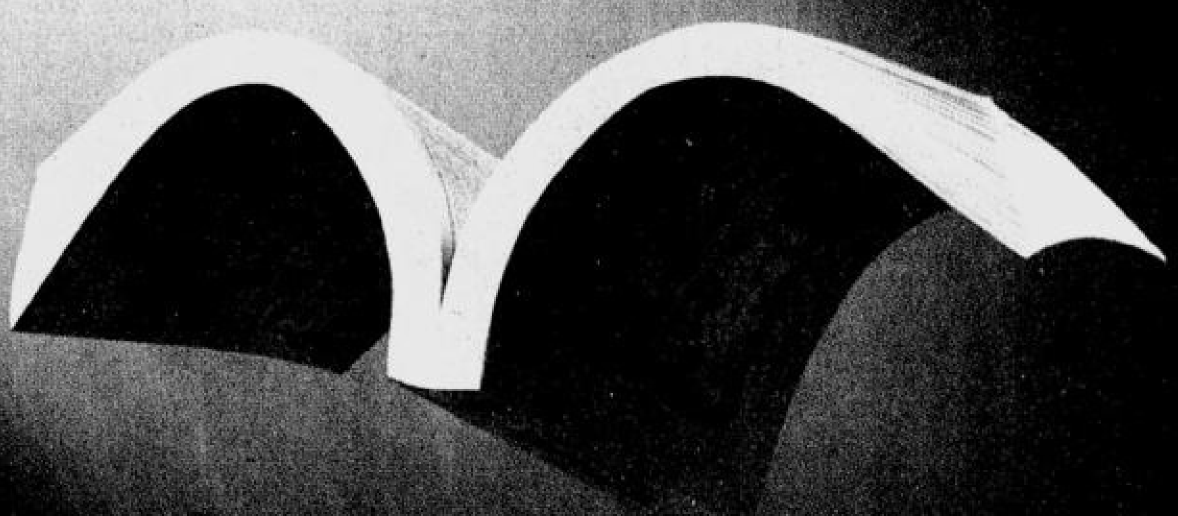


OUTDOOR Way of the Cross in the Chapel of Seitai Hoshikai's Garden of the Lamb in Akita, Japan

In the loving bosom Our Lady's garden

Story on page F1



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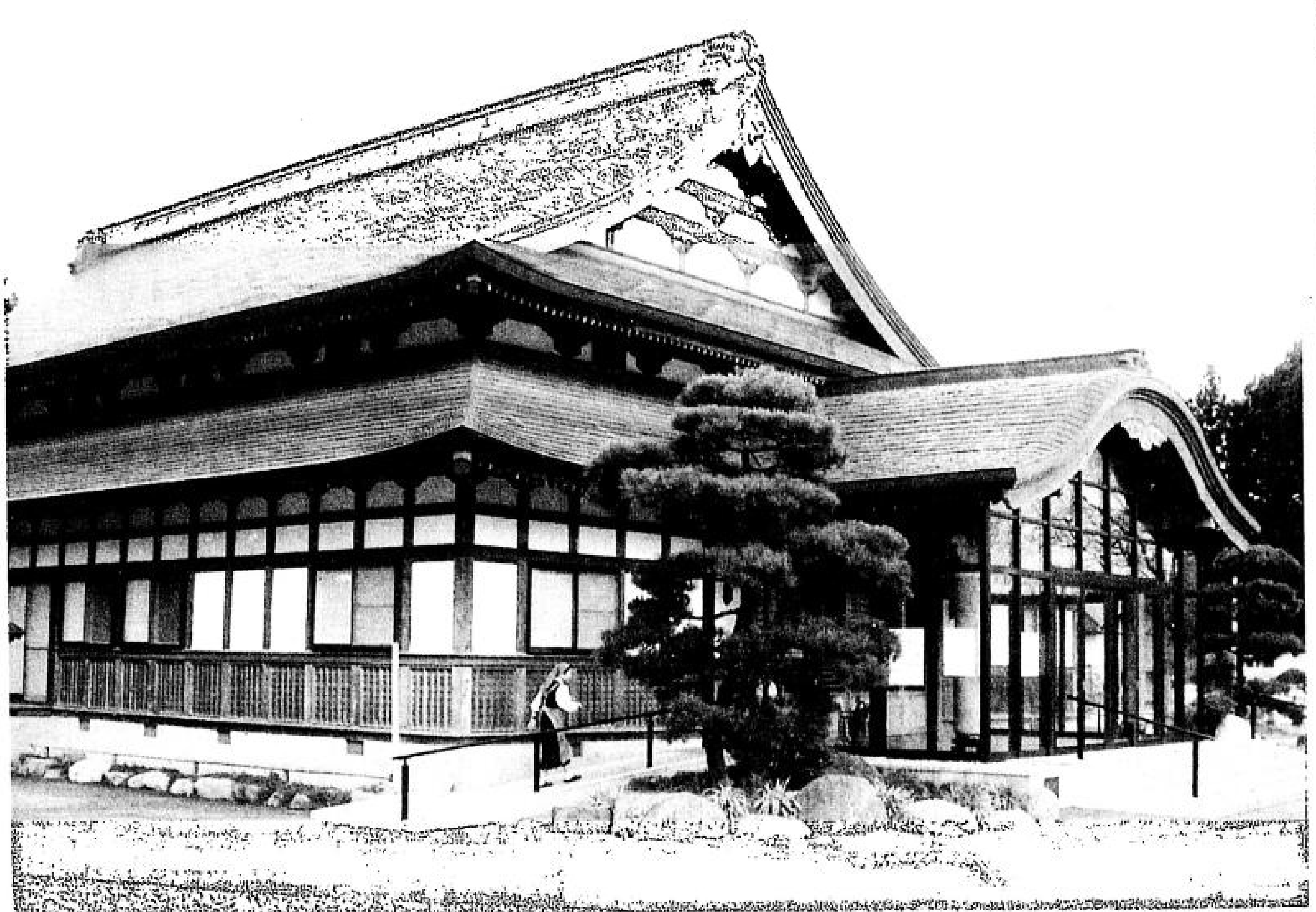
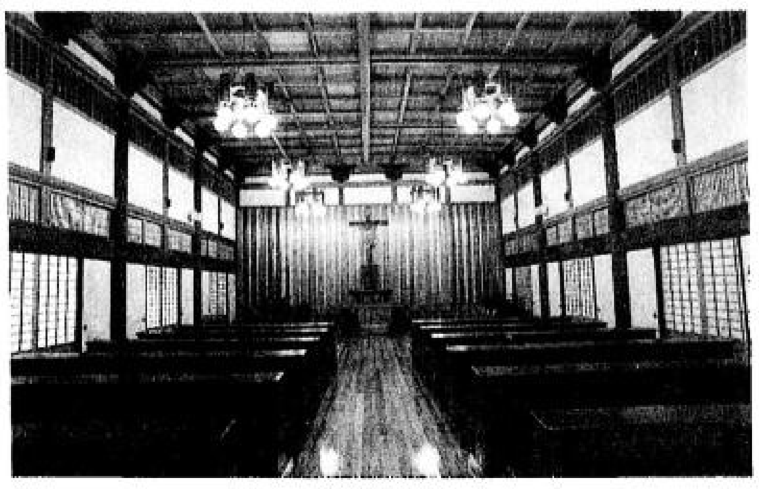
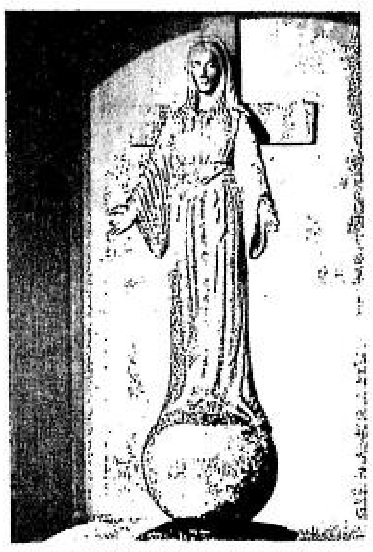


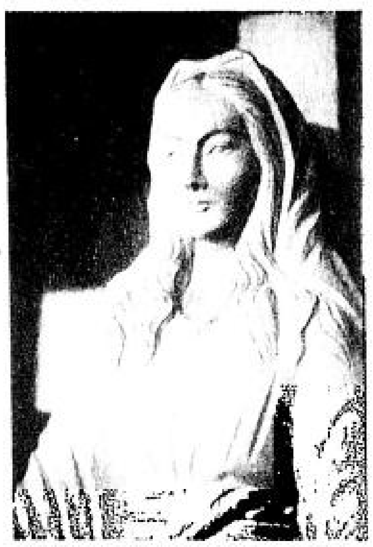
A NUN of the Handmaids of the Holy Eucharist on her way to the Chapel of Seitai Hoshikai where miraculous Our Lady of Akita is enshrined



AUSTERE wooden interiors of the chapel



THE STATUE wept 101 times and spoke to a nun.



OUR LADY of Akita was modeled after an image of Our Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam, but with the facial features of a Japanese woman.

In the loving bosom of Our Lady's garden

Text and photos
By Chelo Banal-Formoso

AROUND the bend from the chapel is another shrine to the Blessed Virgin amidst a garden of pines and pond, bamboos and bridges, rocks and rolling hills.

MY JAPAN moment came not in the overburdened streets of trendy Tokyo but in the gardens of the Chapel of Seitai Hoshikai in Akita, where I regained a friendship with nature that I had lost by living in a polluted and morally poisonous city.

I was glad to be in Japan at a time when my life felt like a crisis waiting to happen. But it wasn't until I got to the Marian shrine in the prefecture of Akita that I knew what I needed to do. In the lovely embrace of Mary's garden, I made peace with myself and realized that what I wanted from hereon was to live a wholehearted life.

We reached the convent by taxi early one morning—too early for me, in fact, so I was not quite awake yet. We passed a wooded area and the scenery started to change. From the merely agricultural (Akita is famous for its rice) we came upon a stunning suite of evergreens that I imagined must give hope to the folks of Akita even in the dreariest of winters.

And then we saw the chapel, standing clean and clear against a backdrop of hill and sky, its Japanese architecture gracious and modest in its combination of glass and wood. The interiors were austere and immaculately clean—wooden floors, wooden pews, a few lamps, an altar where the crucified Christ is enshrined, a statue of St. Joseph and the famous statue of the Blessed Virgin.

Blood, sweat and tears.

The nuns who maintain this chapel are called Handmaids of the Holy Eucharist ("Seitai Hoshikai"). I like nuns. I like them better than priests. They don't have the air of self-importance that always seems to surround priests. There is tenderness in their smiles, purpose in their steps. According to their brochure, the Seitai Hoshikai "is a convent intent on the salvation of souls." Bless them. What a tough challenge! The Handmaids are also there to serve "with love the Sacred Heart of Jesus truly present in the Holy Eucharist," which devotion to Jesus endeared them to His mother such that she appeared three times to one of the nuns. Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa received messages from Our Lady of Akita beseeching her to be faithful and fervent in prayer and for all men to repent and better themselves or a terrible punishment would be inflicted on them.

The statue of Our Lady of Akita first shed tears in January 1975, 12 years after it was carved by local sculptor Saburo Wakasa from a single block of wood from a Katsura tree. The three-foot tall statue would shed tears 100 more times after that, the last tear reportedly falling in September 1981. The statue also perspired and its right palm bled from a cross-shaped wound. To this day, Our Lady of Akita attracts pilgrims from all over the world and keeps the nuns busy. A tiny souvenir shop to the left of the chapel offers a variety of religious items and spiritually oriented reading materials.

Mary's garden

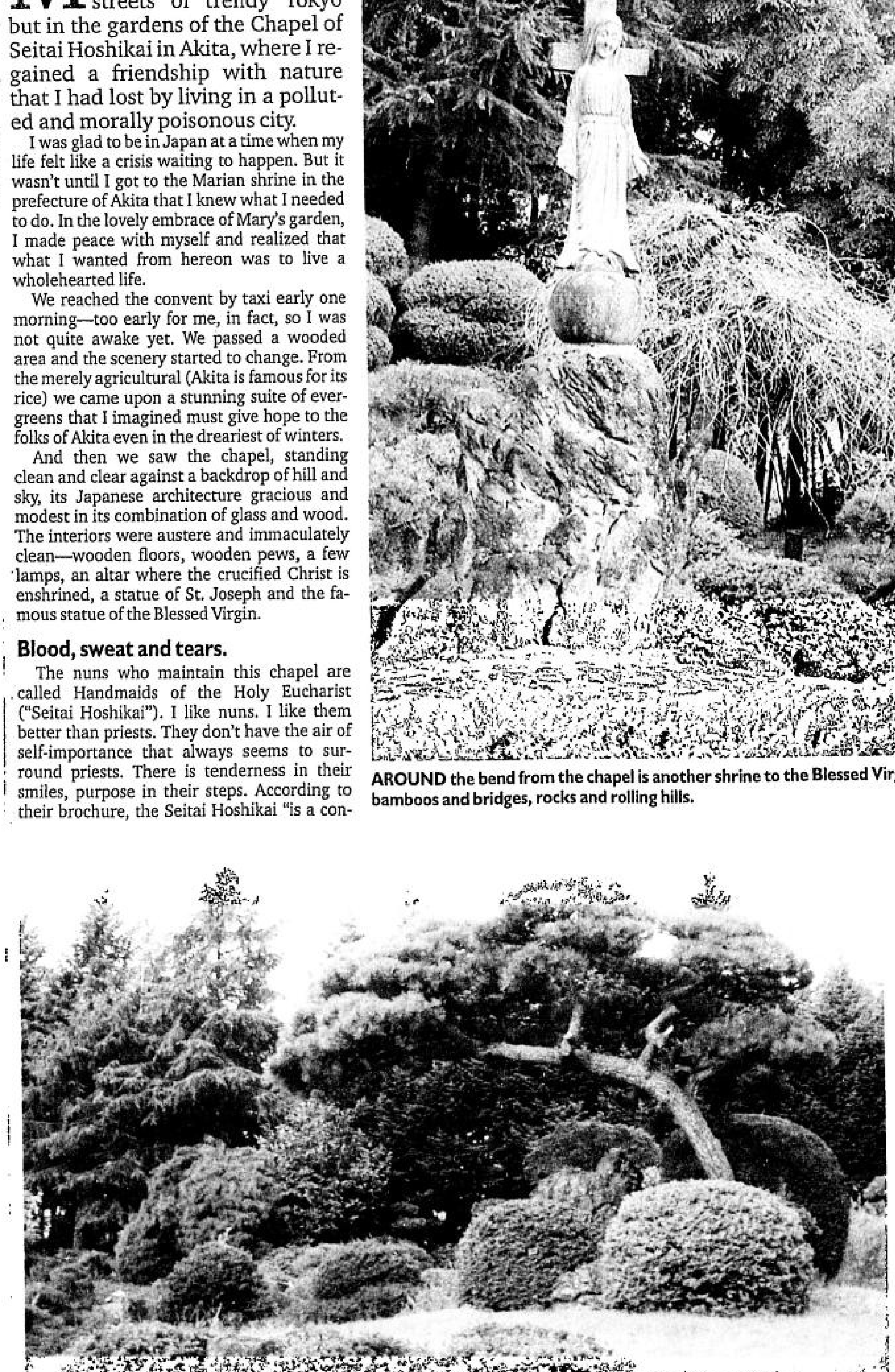
Around the bend from the chapel is the Garden of Mary. Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mother of Jesus, it was put together 30 years ago from trees donated by friends of the congregation all over Japan. It took two years to complete. Like most Japanese gardens, Our Mother's is predominantly green.

Natural shrubbery and trees, as well as elements like rocks, bridge and pond, make a Japanese garden a work of art. A visitor to Japan would be foolish to miss a chance to visit any of its gardens. I followed the circular path of this promenade garden until I came upon the statue of the Blessed Mother, with its backdrop of giant bamboo trees swaying in the breeze (did you know that the bamboo retains its leaves through the winter months?) and surrounded by dwarf trees. High and low, heaven and earth—I breathed in the scene awashed with sunshine, serenity and spirituality and I began to feel a load unhinge from my mind, like waking to a spiritual spring after a winter of discontent.

Way of the Cross

Next to Our Lady's garden is the Garden of the Lamb, an outdoor shrine for the Way of the Cross nestled in the natural grace of a pine forest, sharing the hillside with birds, bees and the humblest of God's creatures.

The Stations of the Cross was built through the center of the garden as a reminder of the sufferings of Christ on the road to His crucifixion. Catholic pilgrims who are familiar with the devotional art of the Way of the Cross will find solace both spiritual and physical in this garden. There are 15 stations, seven on one side of the path, another seven on the other and one at the center at the end of the rows where the resurrection is depicted.



GARDEN ART in shrubbery pruned with geometric exactitude to simulate rolling hills and other aspects of nature and a pine tree twisted and bent by the elements during a long life

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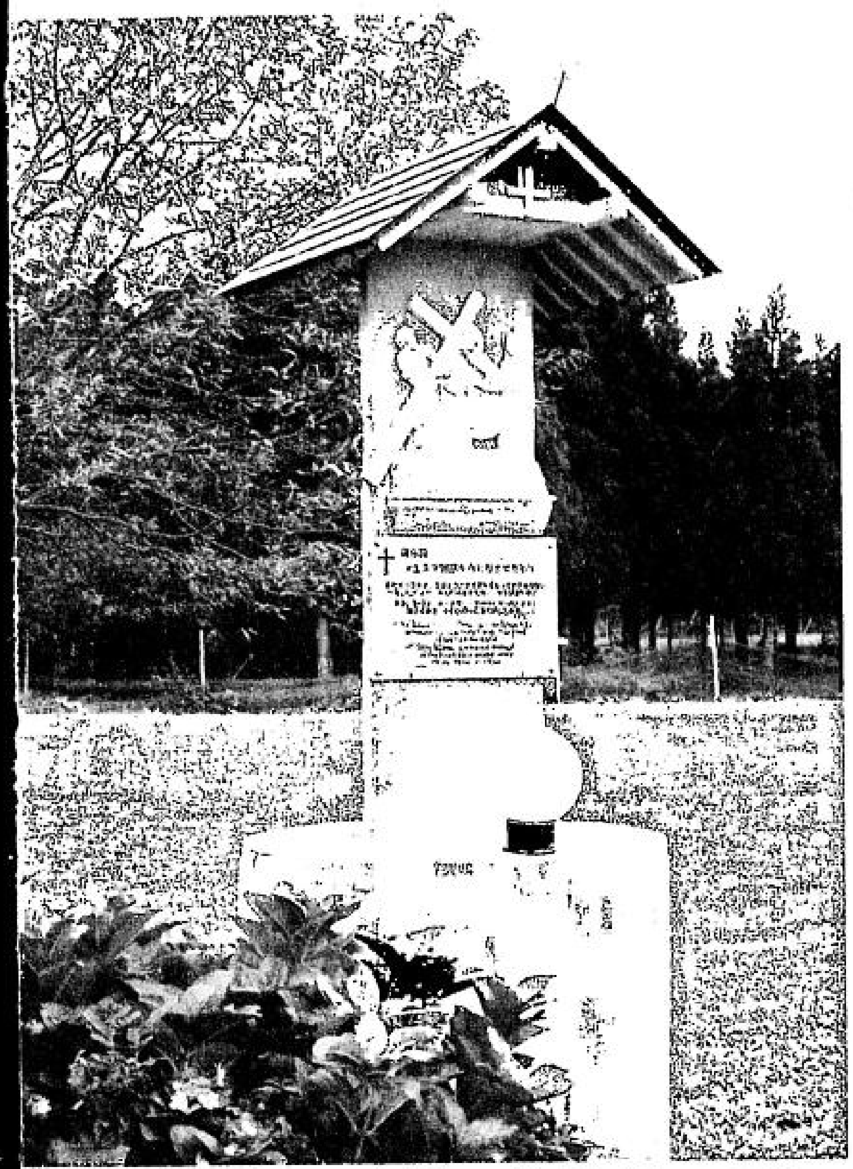
REE changes colors and begins to shed its leaves in the Garden of the Lamb.



OND station showing Jesus carrying His cross. Sign in both Japanese and
ish contains a prayer that by His holy Cross, Christ has redeemed the world.

> aradise
> regained
> the Garden
> Mary and the
> arden
> the Lamb
> the prefecture
> Akita in Japan,
> te of the
> mous Marian
> pparitions

Each station has a base and a stone wall where a scene from Christ's passion is carved. You can follow the Way of the Cross, walking from station to station, or you can simply sit on one of the benches and take in the peaceful scenery.

It is perhaps no accident that the garden tracing Jesus' sufferings on the Cross is next door to the garden devoted to His mother. Anyone who has a vague knowledge of the passion of Christ from reading books or watching movies must know that as hard as the road to redemption was for Jesus, the carrying of the Cross and His death in Calvary must have been more agonizing for the woman who was chosen to be His mother.

Tucked in and around many corners in the gardens at this Marian shrine in Akita are small grottos.

A word of advice to Filipino Catholics who may one day make a pilgrimate to the shrine of Our Lady of Akita and its garden: Please refrain from eating, smoking and playing in the gardens. They may look like parks but they really are sites for prayer and meditation.

The Chapel of Seitai Hoshikai is located at Soegawa Yuzawada 1, Akita 010-0822m Japan, tel. 018-868-2139.

Philippine Airlines flies to Japan daily.

Email the author at cbformoso@inquirer.com.ph.

EES in Mary's garden were donated by friends all over Japan and, like this
utifully gnarled one, play a poetic and evocative role.

Easter fun at the malls

THE POWER Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati turns Easter into a fun-filled event with exciting activities.

Cuddly bunnies will be given away to kids. To avail of this treat, children aged 1-12 years old must make a P1,000 single purchase at any Power Plant Mall establishment. Present your receipt to Customer Care Desk during the registration period, ongoing until March 25.

This entitles a child to one ticket. On Easter Sunday, one can claim one free ride at Kiddie Carnival and participation in the Easter egg hunt, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. At 3 p.m., magic and dog and monkey shows will be held. There will also be balloon twisting, face painting, a caricaturist, kiddie salon, glitter and henna tattoo, Color-Me-Mine and egg painting. Call 8981702.

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, on the other hand, celebrates Easter Sunday with bring-the-smallest-and-the-biggest Easter bunny contest at Grand Atrium. The Easter bunny may be made out of ceramic, papier mache or stuffed toy. The Easter egg hunt is open to parent-and-child teams (children must be 2-12 years old). Registration is ongoing on the 5/L administration office. Deadline is on March 25. Call 6337851.

Meanwhile, a grand Easter Sunday mall event is set.

ROBINSONS MALLS hold a midnight chain-wide sale until today.

Kids also have something to look forward to this Easter Sunday as the mall stages a grand Easter Sunday event on March 27 at the Malls' activity area.

The event kicks off with an Egg Costume Parade/Contest for children at 1 p.m., where kids with colorful and unique Easter Egg Costumes get to win prizes.

A traditional Easter Egg Hunt follows at 3 p.m. for kids ages 6-12 years old. Participants will be grouped accordingly and will be given a challenge. Everyone who can meet these challenges gets to earn points. The group to garner the most points wins the grand prize.

The revelry will be capped with a magic show featuring celebrity kids at 4:30 p.m.

Check out this big Easter event at participating Robinsons Malls:

Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Lipa, Robinsons Place Dasmarinas, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Robinsons Place Cainta, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Robinsons Place Angeles, Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños.

Call 6836137 or 6836100 locals 780/782.

Egg hunt and tricks at the highlands

TAGAYTAY Highlands, the country's premiere weekend haven, is poised to hold its biggest Easter Egg hunt at Plantation Hills' Flowerside Farm on March 27.

Aside from the egg hunt, kids and their families will also enjoy various tricks and incredible stunts in an action-packed acrobatic show.

Another twist to this year's exciting event is the Easter raffle where grand weekend vacations and a mobile phone will be given away.

The Easter celebration is always a highly anticipated affair at the Highlands. Kids will be scouring vegetable and flower beds and plucking some 5,000 eggs from carefully chosen nests scattered all over the Flowerside Farm.

Even the parents will have fun turning their kids loose and watching them run through the field in search of colorful treasures.

The Flowerside Farm provides the perfect backdrop for the event. Right at the heart of this paradise is Café Saratoga where members may sample the famed frothy and flavorful Highlands Blend.

Through the years, Tagaytay Highlands has proven to be a paradise for urban-weary Manileños eager for a stress- and pollution-free weekend escape.

The cool weather, crisp mountain air and its proximity from Manila makes this mountain resort a favorite retreat among its members. Apart from the breathtaking view of Taal Lake and volcano, Tagaytay Highlands has modern facilities and amenities that guarantee world-class luxury and comfort.

Call 46-4132033 or 6872885.

KIDS AND the whole family are in for incredible stunts and tricks when acrobats perform at Tagaytay Highlands' Flowerside Farm as part of this year's Easter celebration.

Help us build
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Future Hero Monument

Be a Kumon franchisee and share in our vision of nation development through education. By adding to our growing list of 150 nationwide centers, more and more kids will benefit from our unique self-motivated learning method that equips them with the basic life skills needed to become sound and capable members of society. Come to the Kumon Franchise Orientation Seminar this March 22, 2005 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the 19th floor, Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo De Roxas, Makati City and play a monumental role in our country's progress.

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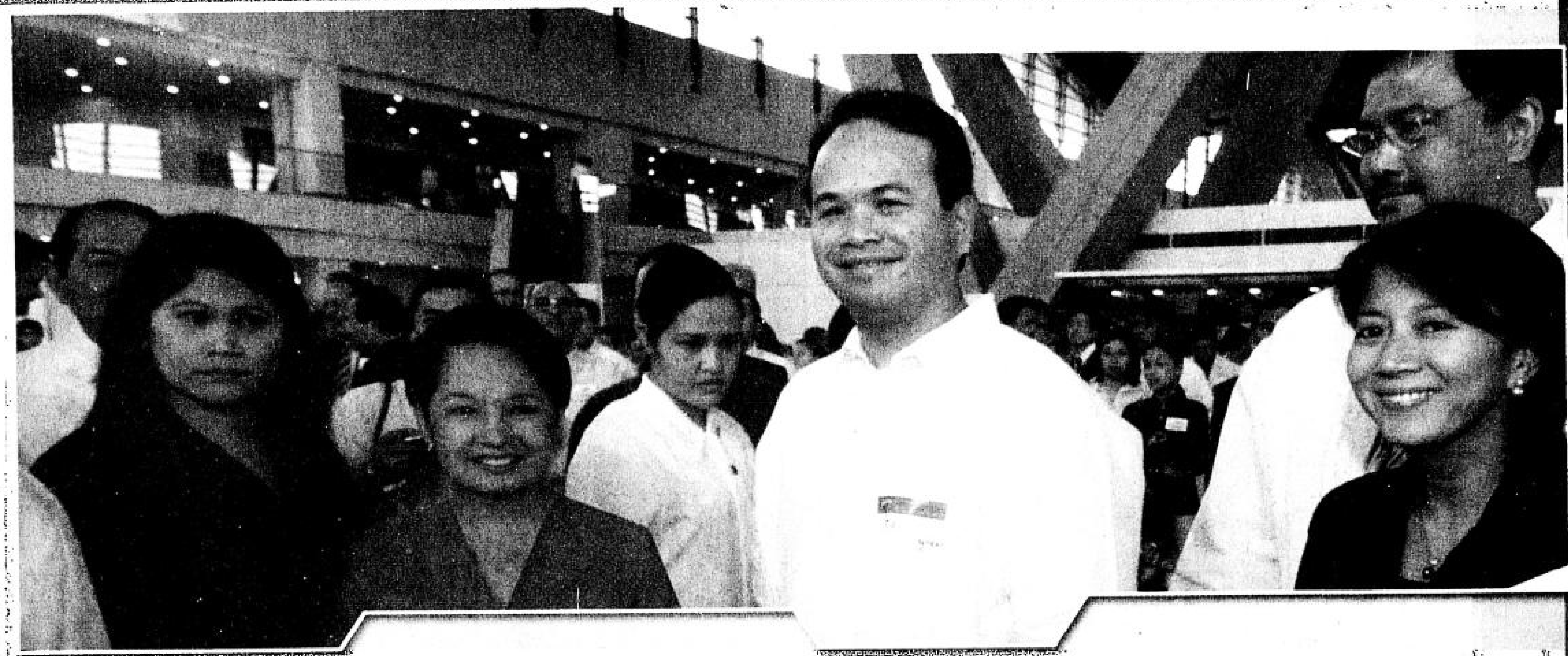

In its efforts to contribute to the nation's progress, Globe Telecom has been working hand-in-hand with the government to enhance and promote our country's tourism industry. At the same time, Globe International Services provide reliable and convenient connectivity to international travelers, making their stay in the Philippines or their trip abroad more enjoyable and worry-free.

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The new airport features state-of-the-art facilities and innovative design. According to GM Cusi, It is envisioned to become a "People's Terminal" that is truly passenger-friendly and accommodating. The opening of NAIA 3 is seen to be a major step in advancing tourism in our country, since the airport creates a visitor's first experience of Filipino culture and hospitality.

During the event, Pres. Arroyo also met representatives from the private sector, including Globe, which has been a dedicated partner in the MIAA's anniversary celebration and in several other projects geared towards enriching the tourism industry. This year, Globe continues to extend support with its sponsorship of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Congress in April and the Island Caravan tour package for summer. The former is a momentous gathering of over a thousand parliamentarians from around the world, and is thus bound to be another milestone in Globe's joint efforts with the government to uphold Philippine tourism.

Travel worry-free at the new, world-class NAIA 3 airport and rely on Globe International Services to meet your communications needs. Globe international roaming, IDD, and international SMS and MMS provide clear connections to over 350 roaming partners in over 180 international destinations at affordable rates. 24-hour roaming assistance and tourist info are also available through *188 Traveler's Guide, while *187 Traveler's Internet gives easy access to the worldwide web while on the go.

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Pres. Arroyo with Globe's Nikko Acosta.

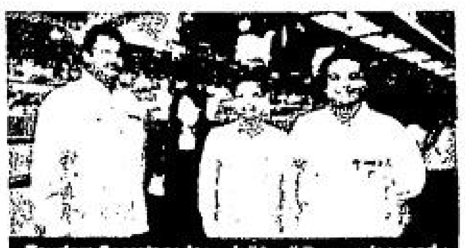
The President takes a tour of the new airport, envisioned as a "People's Terminal."

From left: Globe's Rita Nisperos, M I A A General Manager Alfonso Cusi, Globe's Nikko Acosta, Dodo Reyes, and Heidi Dyangko.

From left: Globe Head of International Services Nikko Acosta, Head of Media and Advertising Dodo Reyes (at back), Corporate Marketing Head Rita Nisperos, Senator Richard Gordon, International Services' Heidi Dyangko, WTC's Jopet Concio, and Richie Garcia.

M I A A GM Alfonso Cusi (right) expresses his appreciation to Nikko Acosta (left) for Globe's longstanding support. Also in photo is TG Serrano, senior consultant to the GM (center).

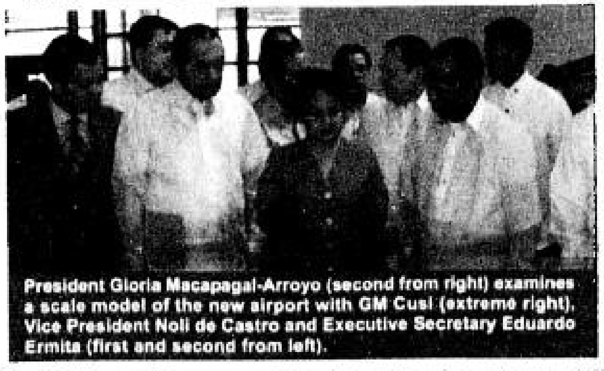
Pres. Arroyo inspects the modern equipment and facilities of NAIA 3.



Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano (second from right) with Globe Head of Media and Advertising Dodo Reyes, Globe International Services' Heidi Dyangko (first and second from left), and Head of International Services Nikko Acosta (extreme right).

Airport staff stand ready to welcome the President. They will also be on hand to serve tourists, strengthening the Philippines' image as the friendliest country in Asia.

From left: Globe's Rita Nisperos and Dodo Reyes, with Globe consultant Jopet Concio of WTC, greet the President.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (second from right) examines a scale model of the new airport with GM Cusi (extreme right), Vice President Noli de Castro and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita (first and second from left).

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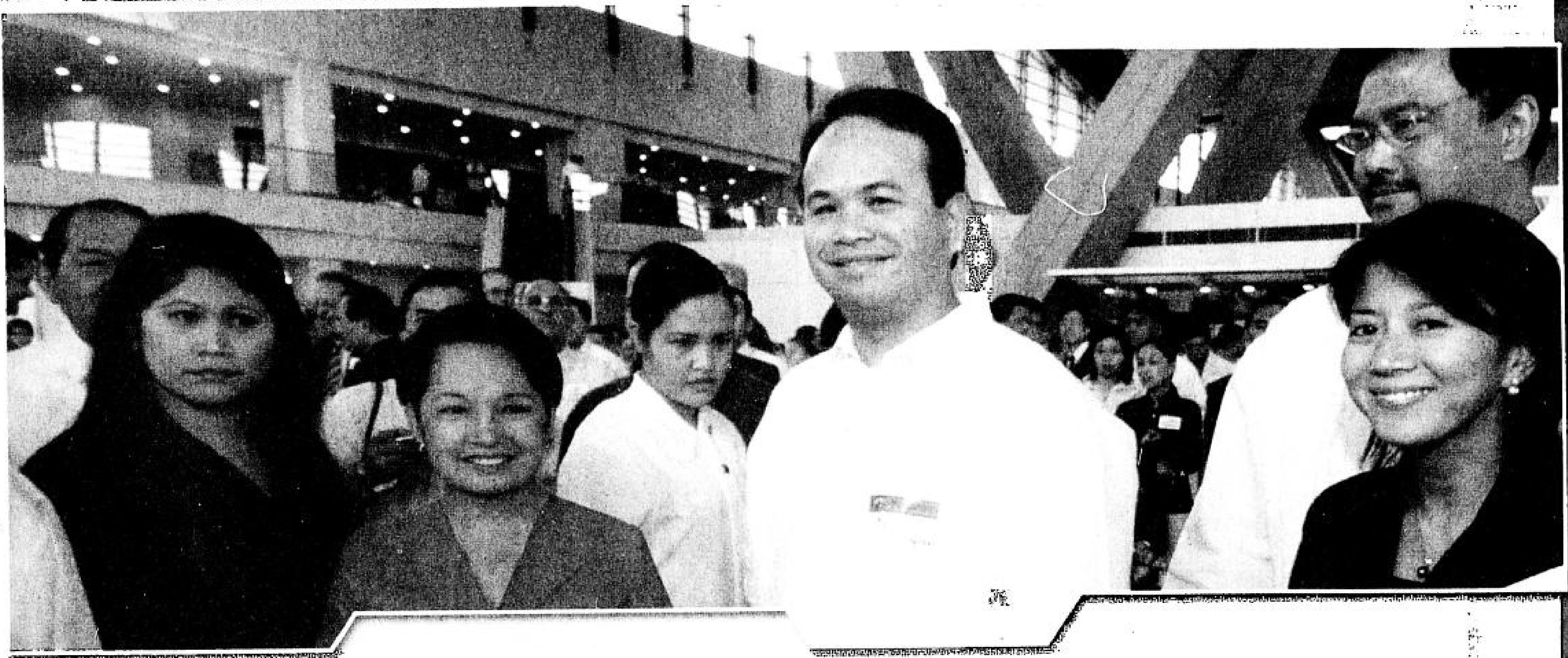

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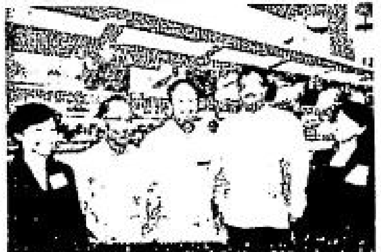

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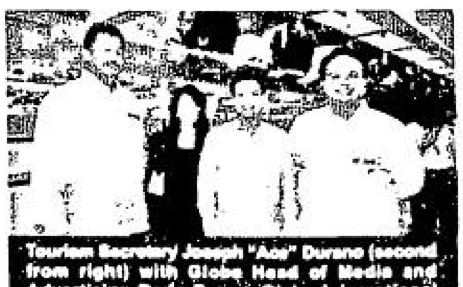

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Bamboo and rattan as wood substitutes

First of two parts

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THERE goes our government again, flip-flopping its way around the logging ban it declared recently.

Now that the ban is being lifted left and right, one wonders if it will remain in place at all. For, having been lifted in certain areas, loggers elsewhere will surely demand similar treatment. It's already happening.

The furniture industry in particular is claiming it is "reeling" from the ban as it is affecting hundreds of its workers. That may be true, but are they helping solve the problem? Are they or their suppliers replanting trees, and if so, is it at the same rate they're cutting them down?

If they are, then there won't be denuded forests, and they won't have to face a ban.

We don't claim to know the answers to this big ecological problem that transcends the environmental for it also involves economics and the state of our nation as a whole. But I am aware of the outcome if it is not resolved now.

Sorry legacy

For should the time come, God forbid, that our forests are gone and nothing is left to log, what will the furniture industry and the timber concessionaires do? Who will they blame? They may no longer be around to face that dilemma, but their children and grandchildren surely will, and it is doubtful that their generation will be happy with this "legacy."

An advertisement on cable television aired by an international conservation group appeals to consumers not to buy fur and other products from endangered animals. "If the buying stops," goes the ad, "the killing will, too."

This has a parallel in the rampant logging activities in our midst. If the demand for wood stops, the logging (specifically illegal) will, too.

To our furniture makers, who are concededly the best in this part of the world, here's an appeal: your talents and creativity are world-renowned. Surely you can put them to extended use. We mean, while our forests are "recuperating," can't beautiful furniture be made from other sources besides wood? There's bamboo and rattan, for example.

Versatile

Leonarda Camacho, Philippine Commissioner for Science and Technology of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), reports from a survey she conducted recently: "Bamboo prevents soil erosion and stabilizes water tanks. It is actually hard as steel, especially when soaked in salt water, and can be used in construction as well as for furniture. It can be made into tiles..." as well as many other things.

From forestry researcher and specialist Jun Alvarez (now with the Clean & Green Foundation), we learn more about the virtues of bamboo. Bamboo, he says, has more than 1,500 recorded uses in various forms and categories which cannot be discounted especially now that there is a growing demand for wood alternatives.

Sharing more of his findings, he adds: "Bamboo is a perennial plant known for its economic, aesthetic and environmental importance. Its products are becoming more and more popular in urban areas and the international market. As a result, the market demand for this raw material is increasing rapidly."

The production of such raw material, therefore, could be a profitable source of income, especially in rural communities. In addition, the presence of bamboo in an area clearly helps the surrounding environment and adds to the beauty of the place. Amorsolo immortalized this versatile plant in many of his works.

Alvarez reminds us that in many places in Luzon, people still build *bahay kubo* (nipa huts) for low-cost housing. Some of them sell complete houses from P10,000-40,000 depending on the hut's size. In some instances, the *bahay kubo* has been modernized so it fits urban lifestyles.

Not only is it less expensive to construct but, by the nature of its basic material, it also allows fresh air and promotes healthy living.

There is a transparency in these native houses that some people may not find completely acceptable. But just because they're made of light materials does not mean they are open to burglars. Their designs should see to that.

The bamboo house is especially favored for the tropics, but it can be urbanized to fit any lifestyle. And, of course, as any advocate of the use of bamboo is sure to add, besides its construction uses, bamboo has edible parts, too.

Topic next week: Rattan

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

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ikaw na ang
paborito kong
teacher.
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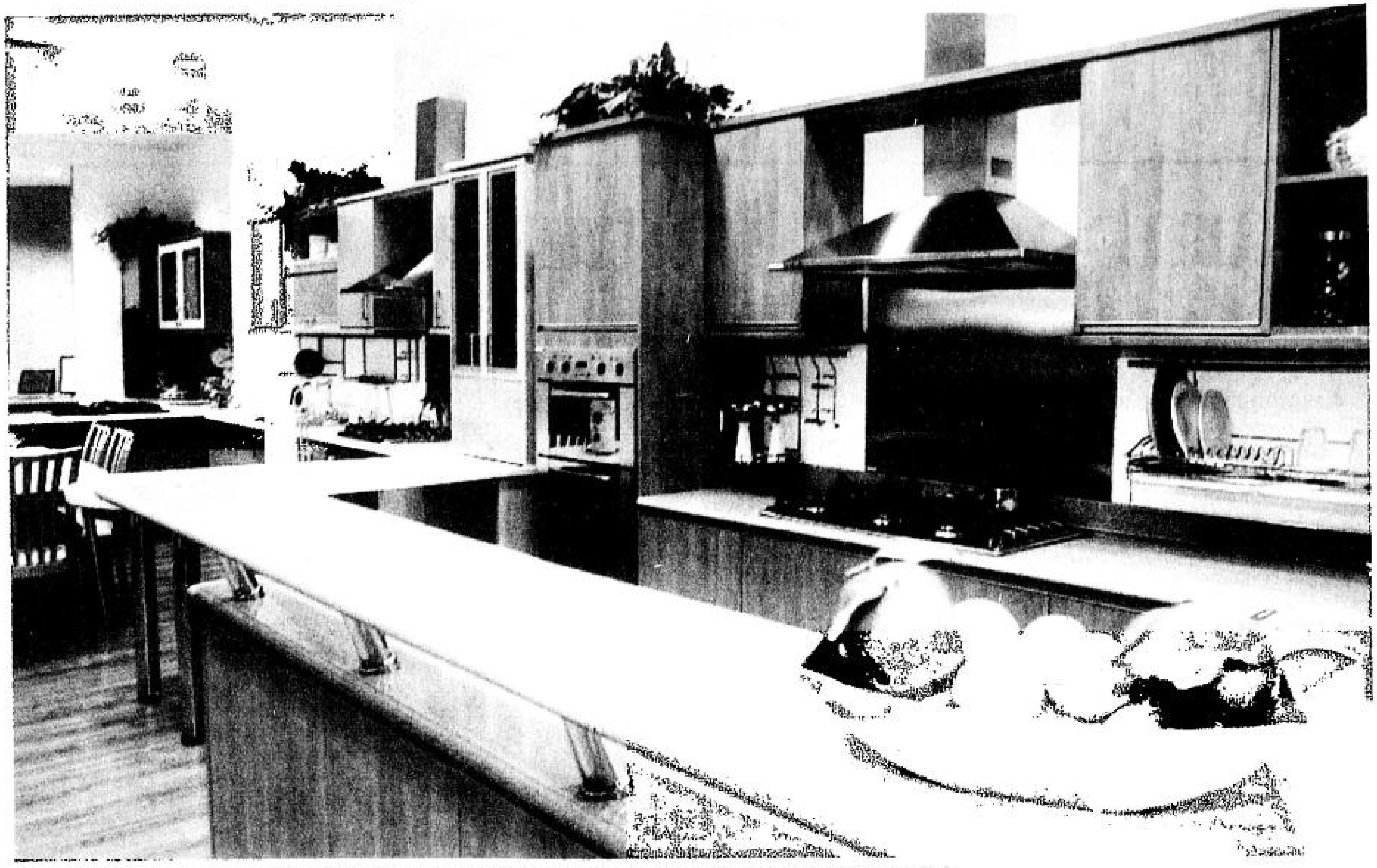
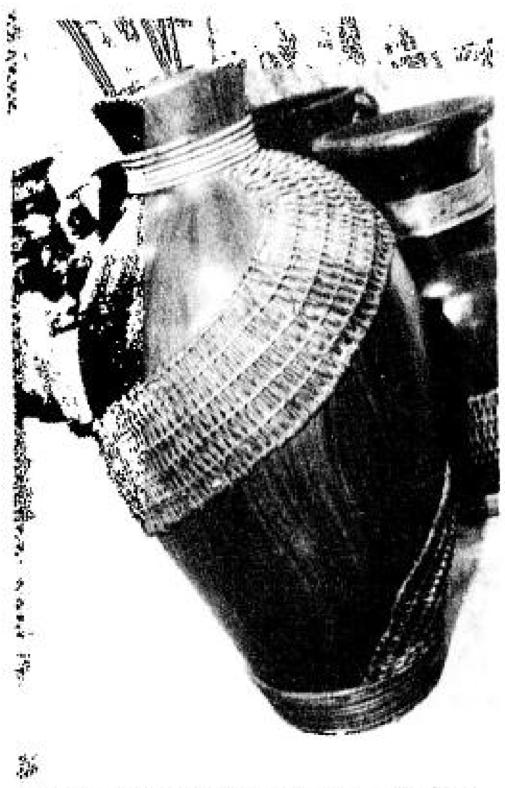
BLUE BAY
TUNA

Makaraan ang maraming taon, magtatapos na ako.
Pero di ko malilimutan ang mga pabaon mong aral at pagmamahal, Inay.
Ikaw ang dahilan na may ipagmamalaki ako sa graduation day na ito.
Alay Kay Inay,
Blue Bay Tuna.
Laging May Sarap
Dahil Abot-Kaya.

HANDCRAFTED Indian statue made of Acacia wood at Isla



METASTONE kitchen set up and appliances, including Baumatic built-in oven and cooktop glass, both made in Italy



JAR from Pampanga at Maluz Hauz Dekor

Haven of home decor

MARKET! Market!, Ayala's budget-shopping complex at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, has its entire third level devoted to home furnishing.

Funktionell boasts of furniture with a nod to the '60s—lounge sofas, red bar stools and other pop-inspired accents.

Eurobel is a haunt for Belgium-made carpets. Its flat weave pieces are made with the revolutionary loop weaving technique.

Persian carpets from Belgium at affordable prices can also be found at Showcase Carpets.

At Metastone, which specializes in kitchen setups and appliances, one can find a truly sleek and efficient Baumatic built-in oven from Italy.

Isla offers *bululs* from Baguio and Indian statues made of acacia.

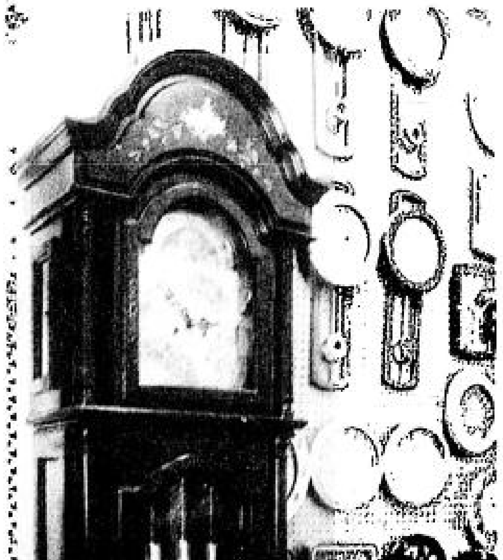
Balikbayan Handicrafts has small conversation pieces, such as the Batad bowl and vase made of laminated coco twigs, and spikelets and coco shells.

Cevina specializes in pottery. It has *banig*-style pots at P290 up to P440.

Market Square specializes in wood products such as its rooster stands.

Y2K boasts of the latest in home accessories, fixtures and finishing.

Furnishop has charming little pieces such as the China-made "towel" of glass and hanging shelf made of Arakaria wood from Australia.



GRANDFATHER clock at Orasan

THAI decor at Piquant Home Furnishings

NATURAL flat weave carpets made in Belgium at Eurobel

TOWEL lamp at Furnishop

First Pinnacle has sun loungers, some in Indonesian teak.

Natural Art offers customized, made-to-order flowers.

Home Essence specializes in bath and beddings while Dwellings offers a wide array of high-quality furniture in very basic styles.

Kaira Mae Interiors offers affordable made-to-order curtains and a wide array of throw-pillow cases.

Piquant Home Furnishing offers a wide variety of Thailand products.

In the market section, there's Orasan, which boasts of a grandfather clock from China among other time-telling finds; Grand Flora, another haven for artificial flowers; Maluz House Decor atbp., which has a terra cotta jar made from Pampanga for only P5,500; Piquant Home Furnishings, which offers Thai furniture and other Oriental-inspired home accents; Klappstuhl, which displays a wide range of pearly sofas that will make everyone at home; San Yang, whose top glass dining set from Malaysia is a steal at P24,995; Happy Home, a haven for really comfortable pillows and other beddings; Koletz, which offers artworks; Arq, which offers a limitless variety of curtains, rods and pillows; Hudges Industries, which has cartoon-inspired blankets; and Homeware Fumiture House, which offers top-of-the-line furniture from China.

SUN lounger at First Pinnacle

HAMMOCK made in Vietnam at Happy Home

ANIMAL print pillows at Happy Home

CUSTOMIZED flowers at Natural Art

Growing-up Milk with Fine Cereals - A First in the Philippine Market

For most mothers, feeding their toddlers is a big challenge. At this stage, children become picky with food or even show little interest in eating. They also become more active and curious in exploring their surroundings which distract them from their regular meals. In these instances, kids miss out on important nutrients like carbohydrates and fiber found in vegetables and grains.

Now, there's an answer to this problem. Dumex has formulated a growing-up milk that contains cereals - Dugro 1 Plus and 3 Plus with Fine Cereals. With every drink, kids can have all the healthful goodness of milk and the benefits of carbohydrates and fiber from cereals!

First launched in Singapore and Malaysia, where Dumex is a market leader, Dugro is now enjoyed by many growing kids and appreciated by many thankful mothers. Now that this innovation has been brought here to the Philippines, Filipino kids can also enjoy better nutrition from Dugro.

Dugro Premium Growing-up Milk with Fine Cereals contains high quality corn and wheat- great sources of complex carbohydrates for added energy. Research studies also reveal that complex carbohydrates are less fattening since the fiber in cereals creates a feeling of fullness longer. Fiber is known to promote a healthy stomach, prevent constipation and help in Calcium absorption. It is also a natural fat absorber, which explains why cereals can help reduce the risk of heart ailments and even some forms of cancer. Like all Dumex products, Dugro contains Maxi-Q™ plus DHA, a system of nutrients for optimum physical and mental development for young children.

Dugro is the new brand name for the Dumex range of growing-up milks

Aside from its infant anf follow - on formulas, the Dumex range consists of Dugro 1Plus and Dugro 3Plus in 3 flavors - yummy honey, creamy vanilla and delicious chocolate - Dugro with Fine Cereals is the latest addition to this range, which has won over many Filipino mothers and children since its launch 5 years ago.

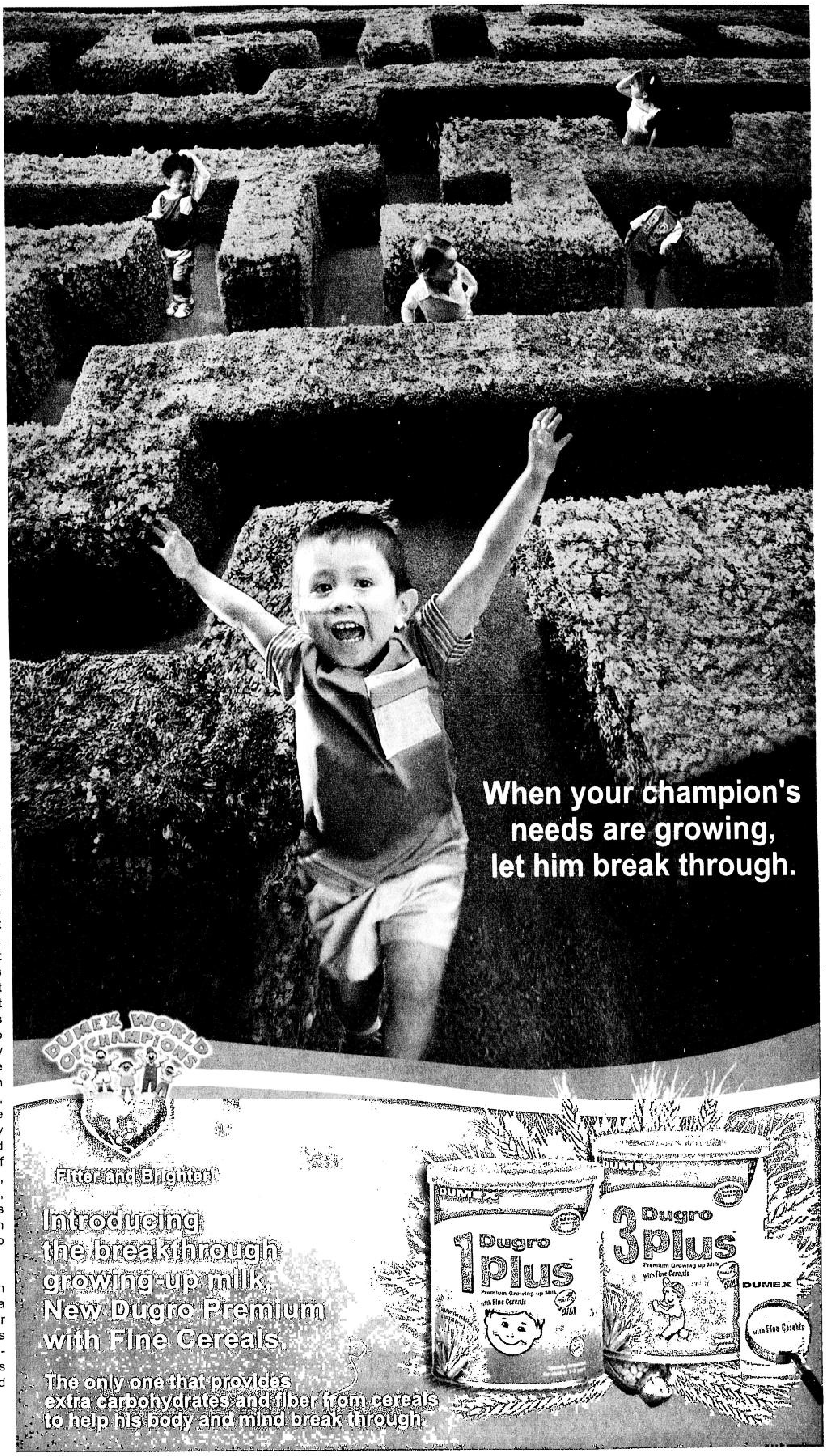
THE BIG WONDERS OF CEREALS FOR YOUR LITTLE ONES

Who would've thought every small grain of rice or corn that a child eats affects his health tremendously? These cereals are loaded with carbohydrates which supply the energy needed by a child to be able to play, study and learn. They also contain good quality proteins. Whole cereals are a good source of calcium and iron. Yellow maize, in particular, contains significant amounts of carotene.

Through its rich fiber content, cereals also play an important role in helping the bowel function properly. Fiber in the intestines attracts water which makes the stool softer, helping to prevent constipation. Fiber thereby promotes a healthy digestive system.

Children may also reap long-term benefits from eating cereals. Since fiber stays in the stomach longer and gives a feeling of fullness, evidence suggest that it helps prevent obesity. Newer studies say that children who eat cereals more often are least likely to be overweight and are healthier as they grow. According to the findings of a new study published in the journal of the American Dietetic Association, cereal eaters achieve an appropriate body weight for their age and gender while intakes of Vitamins A, B6, Thiamine, Riboflavin, Niacin and Folate, as well as Calcium, Iron and Zinc were also higher in this group.

Encouraging children to make cereals a consistent part of their diet not only contributes to their nutritional well-being but also teaches them about healthy food choices early in life.


When your champion's needs are growing, let him break through.
DUMEX WORLD OF CHAMPIONS
Fitter and Brighter!
Introducing the breakthrough growing-up milk, New Dugro Premium with Fine Cereals.
The only one that provides extra carbohydrates and fiber from cereals to help his body and mind break through.
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Premium Growing up Milk
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Premium Growing up Milk
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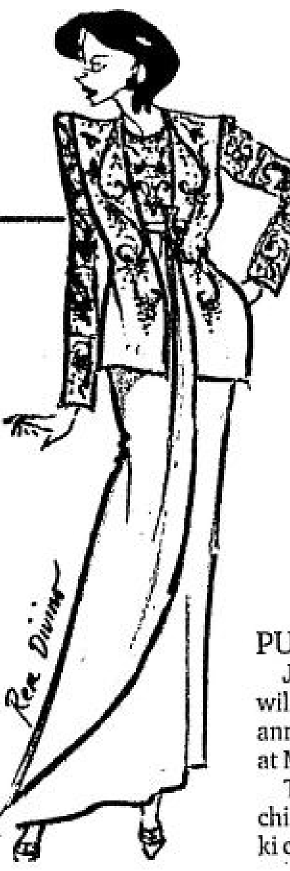


PUNO 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Justice and Ms **Ricardo C. Puno Sr.** will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on April 2 with a reception at Makati Shangri-La.

The bride will wear a silver gray silk chiffon gown encrusted with Swarovski crystals created by **Rem Divino.**

Milestones

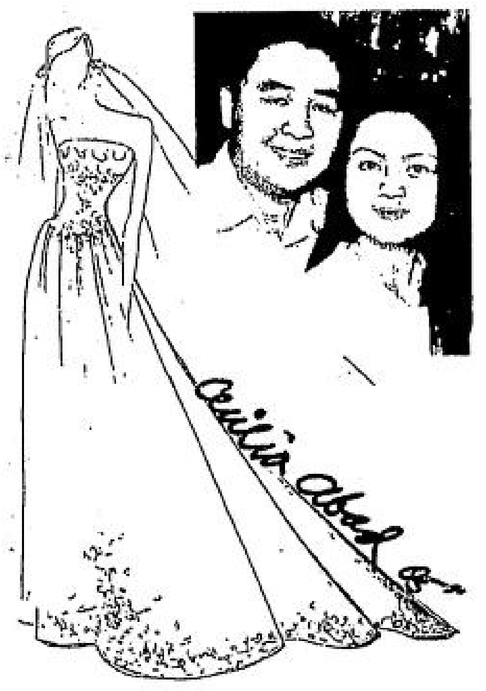
We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

PONFERRADA-ENRIQUEZ

Paul Ponferrada, son of Justice **Bernardo** and **Monina Ponferrada**, married recently **Sharina Enriquez**, daughter of **Melchor Enriquez** and **Ma. Lucia Rocero**, at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral). A dinner with family and friends followed at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion.

CABUNGCAL-SALOMON

Buen Raymond M. Cabungcal, son of **Buenaventura** and **Ma. Teresa Cabungcal**, married recently **Maribeth L. Salomon**, daughter of **Felix** and **Priscilla Salomon**, at the Santuario de San Jose East Greenhills. Reception was at the Acropolis Clubhouse in Libis, QC.



BATIANCELA-ORAP

Bon Batiancela, son of **Albert** and **Lourdes Batiancela**, will exchange vows with **Grace Orap**, daughter of **Lydio** and **Engracia Orap**, on April 9 at The Shrine of Jesus, The Way, The Truth and The Life, in Pasay City.

Reception will be held at the grand ballroom of Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila.

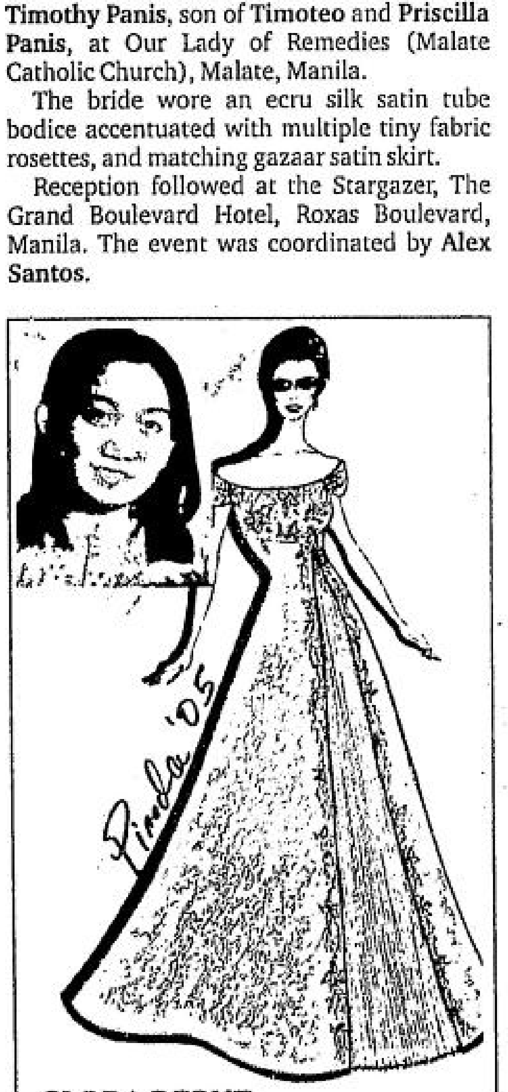
The bride will wear a piña gown with Victorian-inspired embroidery accentuated with pearls, bugle and Swarovski crystals, designed by **Cecilio Abad.**

PANIS-CABRAL

Greezy Cabral, daughter of **Gregorio** and **Nelia Cabral**, exchanged vows recently with **Timothy Panis**, son of **Timoteo** and **Priscilla Panis**, at Our Lady of Remedies (Malate Catholic Church), Malate, Manila.

The bride wore an ecru silk satin tube bodice accentuated with multiple tiny fabric rosettes, and matching gazaar satin skirt.

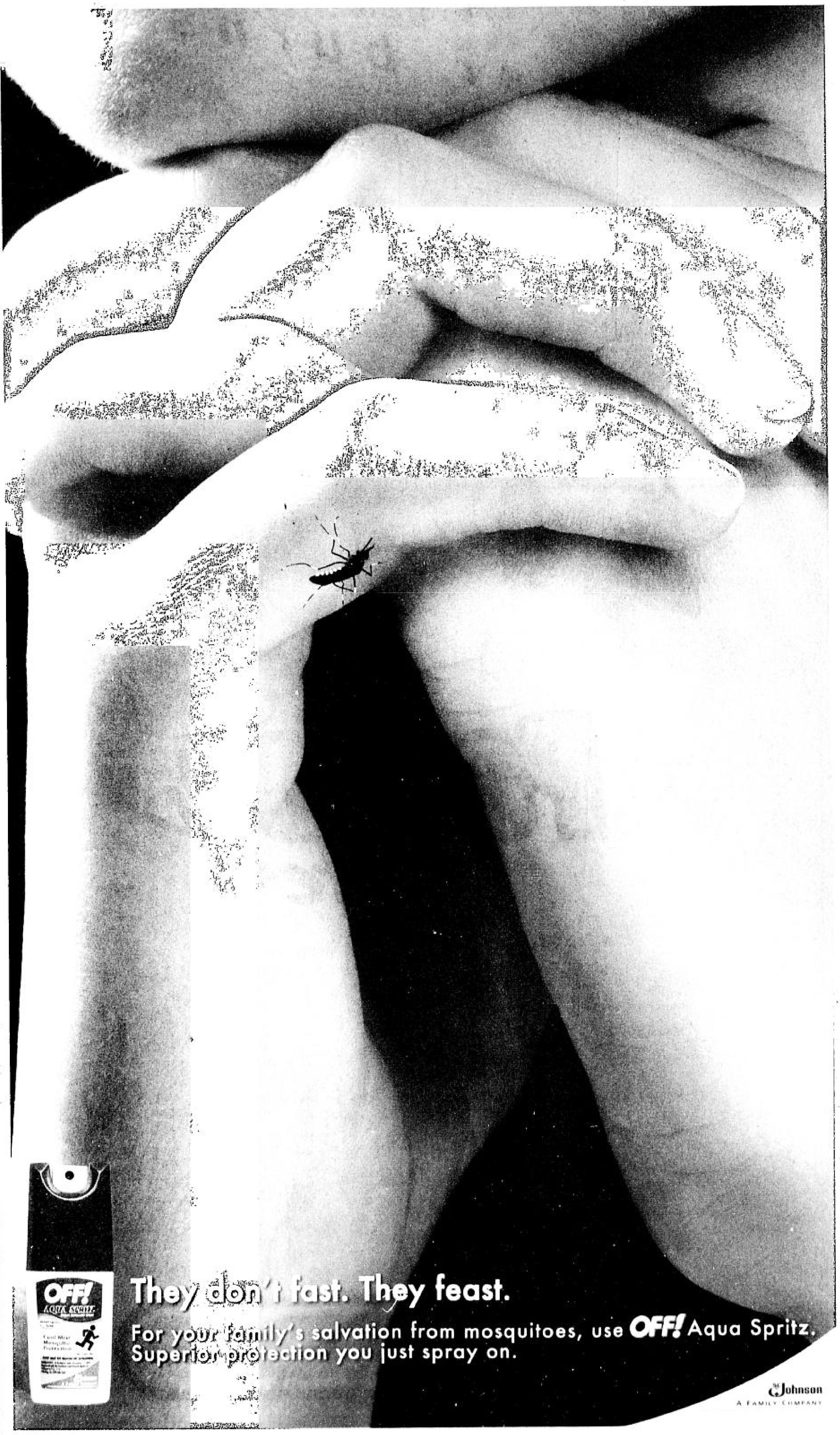
Reception followed at the Stargazer, The Grand Boulevard Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The event was coordinated by **Alex Santos.**



GLODA DEBUT

Karen Gloda, daughter of engineer **Rolando** and **Alicia Gloda**, will celebrate her 18th birthday with a dinner-dance today at the Maynila of the Manila Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using carnation pink Vietnam silk. The off-shoulder bodice is fully embellished with silver caviar beads, seed pearls and rhinestones. Electric-pleated silk organza inserts accent the bell-shaped skirt, and floral-shaped Swarovski pins will adorn the debutante's hair.



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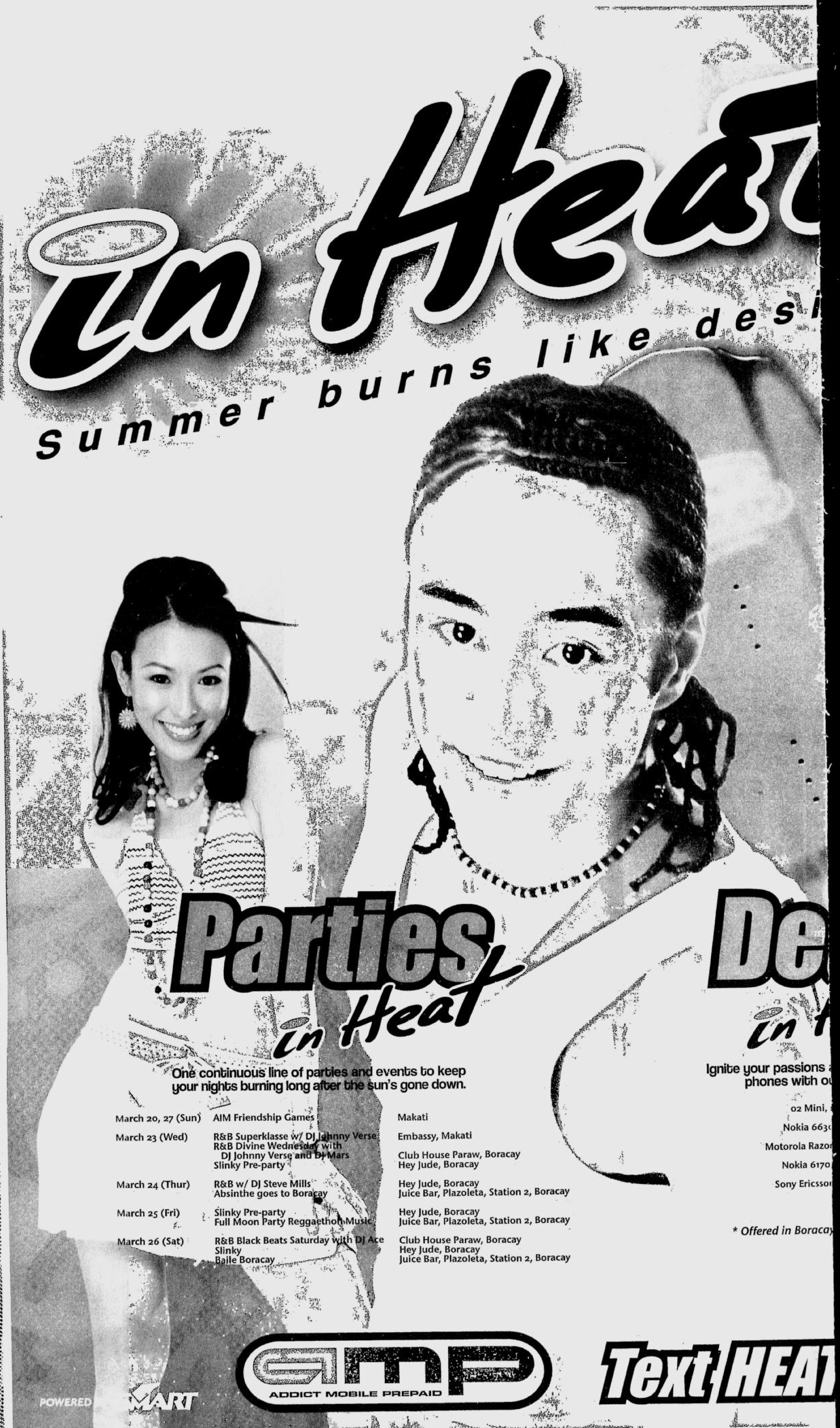

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March 20, 27 (Sun)	AIM Friendship Games	Makati
March 23 (Wed)	R&B Superklasse w/ DJ Johnny Verse R&B Divine Wednesday with DJ Johnny Verse and DJ Mars Slinky Pre-party	Embassy, Makati Club House Paraw, Boracay Hey Jude, Boracay
March 24 (Thur)	R&B w/ DJ Steve Mills Absinthe goes to Boracay	Hey Jude, Boracay Juice Bar, Plazoleta, Station 2, Boracay
March 25 (Fri)	Slinky Pre-party Full Moon Party Reggaethon Music	Hey Jude, Boracay Juice Bar, Plazoleta, Station 2, Boracay
March 26 (Sat)	R&B Black Beats Saturday with DJ Ace Slinky Baile Boracay	Club House Paraw, Boracay Hey Jude, Boracay Juice Bar, Plazoleta, Station 2, Boracay

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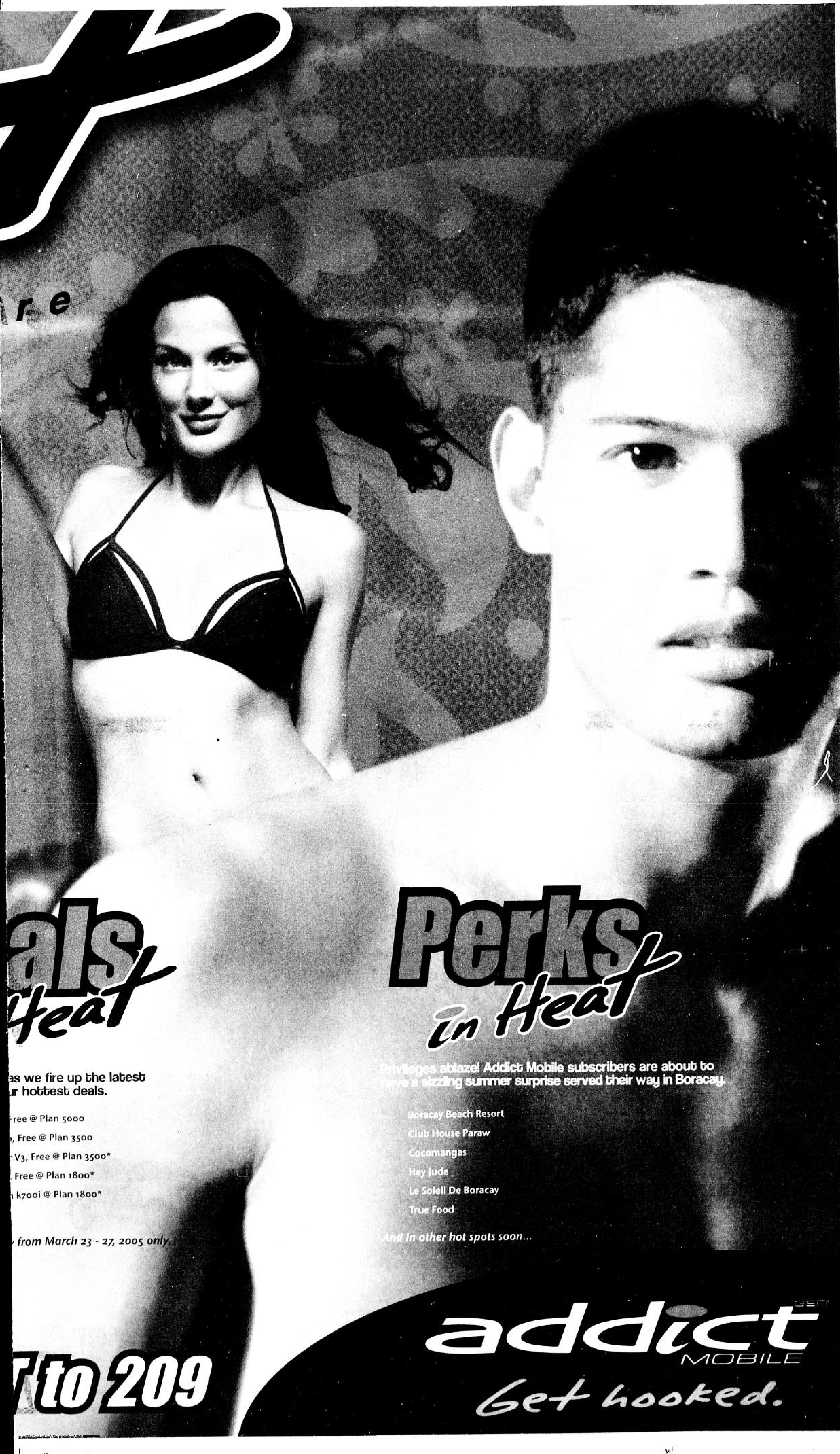
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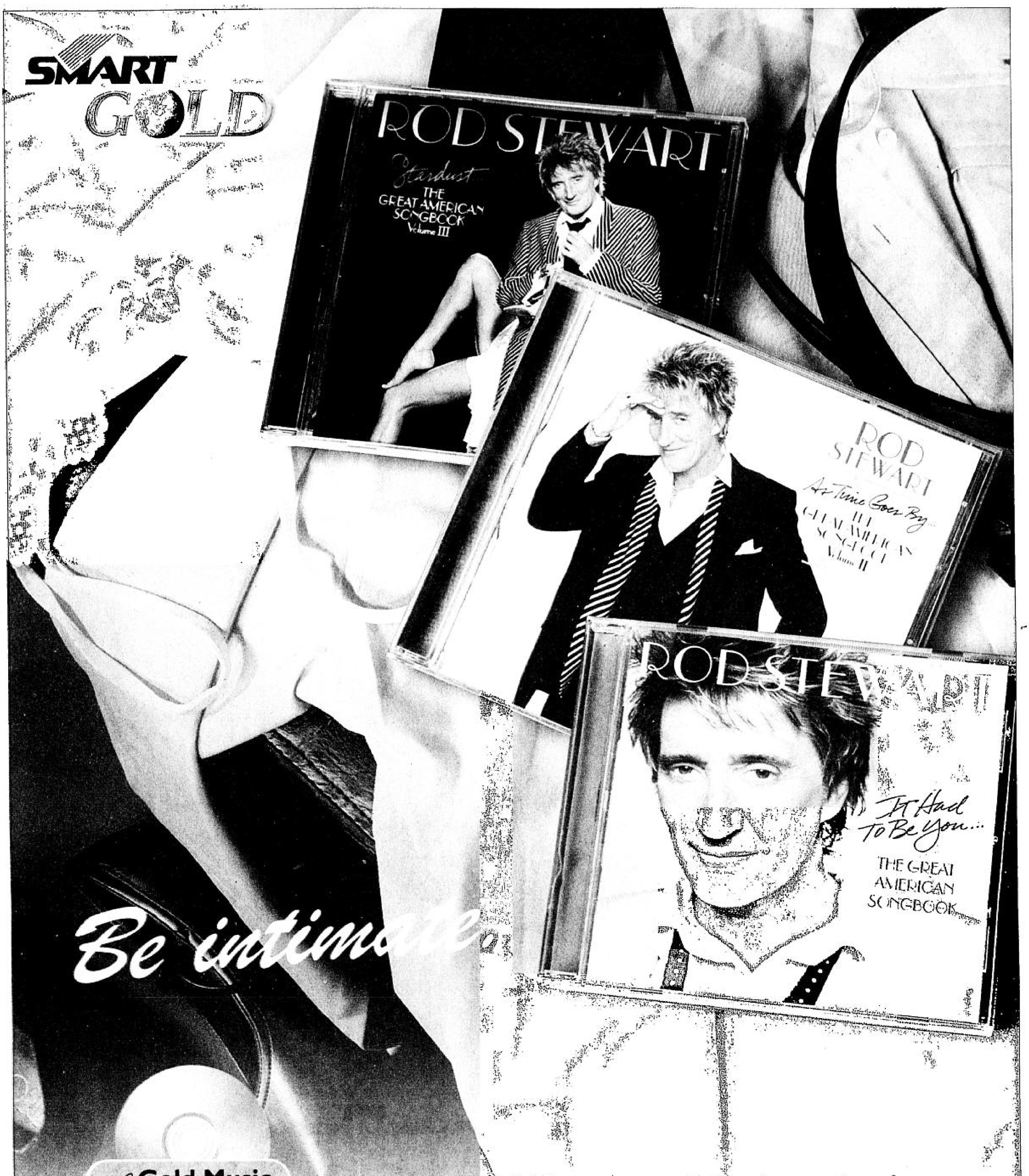

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Exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

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Promo runs from March 12 to 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1349, Series of 2005.

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For polytones, text **POLY** <keyword> to 234.

SONGS	KEYWORD
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The Nearness Of You	nearness
Blue Moon	bluemoon
Smile	smile
Till There Was You	tilderwasu
It Had To Be You	ithad2bu
They Can't Take That Away From Me	canttakeaway
What A Wonderful World	wonderfulworld
Someone To Watch Over Me	someonewatch

Text ROD to 234.

Music icon Rod Stewart performs his rendition of the standards in his Great American Songbook series. Download tones based on this exceptional compilation for a chance to win:

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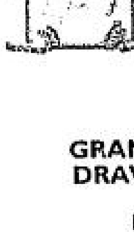
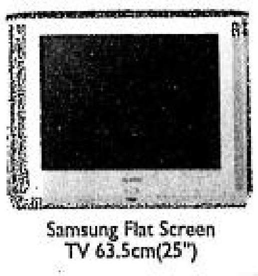
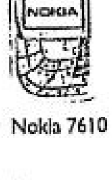


Apple iPod (20 gigabyte)



Samsung Flat Screen TV 63.5cm(25")



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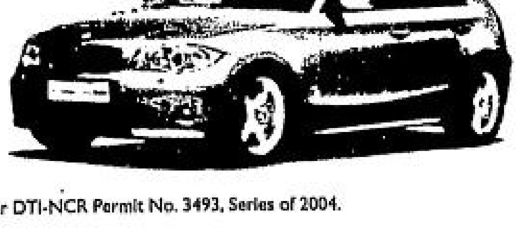
GRAND DRAW:

Prestige Cars BMW Makati



See flyers for details.
Promo runs 'til March 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3493, Series of 2004.

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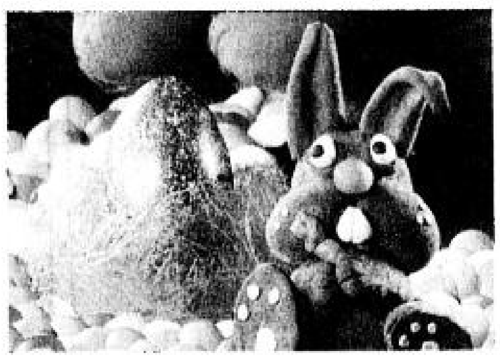
BIG EGG hunt Easter treats at Mandarin Oriental



EASTER Egg Hunt Extravaganza at Makati Shangri-La

Have a joyous Easter celebration

MANDARIN Oriental Manila features The Big Egg Hunt on March 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at the ballroom. Three egg hunts will be held at intervals, where lucky winners can win overnight accommodations for two with breakfast, prizes and gifts. The celebration starts with an Easter parade by Enchanted Kingdom mascots. Other activities include a magic show, Dino-rock concert, egg-painting contest, face painting and Rio Grande photo corners. Those who'll avail of the Easter room packages between March 25 and 27 will receive two complimentary tickets to the egg hunt in the ballroom. Call 7508888.

SEVEN Suites offers the Easter Sunday buffet lunch and dinner at P399++. Kids 12 and below pay only half the price. The traditional Easter Egg hunt will start at 4 p.m. It will feature a magic and clown show, film and games for kids.
Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City. Call 6775401 to 02, 2405093 or 9268985.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza presents exciting activities until March 27. Start your Easter with a Mass at 8:30 a.m. then have a brunch buffet at Café Plaza for free tickets to the Easter party at the hotel's gardens. Easter egg hunts by the hour starts at 9:30 a.m. followed by Bratz Kiddie Hair Salon, Zoids and Knex building contests, Road Rats RC racing contest, TV Games Plug It In & Play free play, all-day kiddie flicks at the mini-cinema, arts and crafts, mascot appearances, magic show by Lou Hilario with puppet and bird shows. Special prizes await kids wearing unique costumes. Easter package room rates for overnight accommodation until March 24 start at P4,700 net for a superior room and P5,700 net for a deluxe room. Rates on March 25 and 26 start at P6,500 net for a Westin Executive Club room per night. The Easter Package includes buffet breakfast for two, three tickets for an adult and two kids, 12 and below; The Westin Hoppening at Sunset Pavilion on March 27, use of swimming pool and access to the sports club and spa. Call 5515555.

THE SULO Hotel showcases Easter Kids' Day on March 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Children of all ages will be treated to games, goodies and shows of clowns and magicians. There will also be sessions with face painters and balloon artists. The Easter egg hunt will be held at the hotel's pond and garden area. Whoever finds the golden egg wins an overnight stay at The Sulo Hotel. Call 9245051.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko presents Hoppy Easter on March 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the grand ballroom. Mass will be held at 9 a.m. at Ciao function room. Go crazy with the Easter egg hunt and Easter egg roll and win great prizes. Kids 3-12 years old can join the Best Decorated Easter Egg contest. Bring your decorated hard-boiled egg on Sunday. Kids 3-10 years old dining at the Café on March 24-26 can join the Easter drawing contest. Kids will be treated to free ice cream, hotdogs and loot bags. Call 8673333.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila offers the Easter Day Room Package for P2,000 net. Stay is valid from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. in a superior room. Or avail of the Holy Week Special Room Package on March 21-27 for P2,900 net inclusive of overnight stay in a superior room with buffet breakfast at Restaurant Riviera. On Easter Sunday, a magic show, face painting, duck race and egg hunt will be held at the Poolside. Call 8548888.

MANILA Pavilion Hotel offers What's Hatching? room package today until March 27. The promo includes a superior room accommodation for P1,800 net per night. Those availing this package are privileged to join the Easter Sunday Brunch for P2,000 net. This includes brunch for two adults and two kids, interactive games for the whole family and egg hunt. At Café Coquilla, there will be face painters, balloon sculptors, clowns and egg hunt. Call 5261212.

MAKATI Shangri-La showcases the Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza on March 27, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at Quezon ballroom. Mass will be held at 8 a.m. at A & B function rooms. Guests can join the hotel activities for P865.01 net per parent and P480.81 net per child. Prices are inclusive of brunch buffet. The hotel also offers a special Easter package. Experience its superior room for P5,193.50 per night and deluxe room for P5,856.50 per night. Rates include breakfast buffet for two at Circles Event Café, 20-percent discount at all F&B outlets, 10-percent off on Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza ticket (valid only on Easter Sunday), access to the 24-hour Health Club, free use of swimming pool and complimentary parking. Call 8138888.

THE RICHMONDE Hotel features Fun and Madness Party on March 27, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at SRS

HAVE/14

CELEBRATE Easter with fun activities featuring egg hunting for kids at the Richmonde Hotel.

HONEY MOON
LOVE POTION FOR MEN
HONEY MOON TEA (instant tea) is a natural love potion formulated exclusively for men which helps ignite sensuality making every intimate moment feel like a Honeymoon. Its well-blended Chinese herbs are also known to fight fatigue and bring back energy to help release tightness and stress.
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A Sexy Tea for the Great Lover

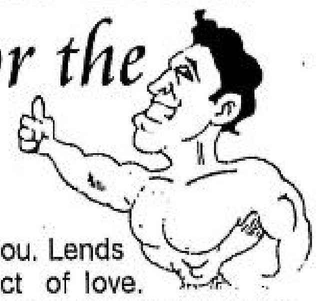
The sexy tea for the lover in you. Lends passion and power to the act of love. A wholesome remedy that heightens the man's sensual and tantric awareness.

Honey Moon Tea rekindles diminished sexual virility. Its potent combination has a reputation for being known as *herbs for romance and passion.* It has the ability to evoke reviving properties in the body. A restorative formulation that builds blood and sperm, strengthens muscles, tendon, ligaments, and bones. It regulates male hormone production and increases virility.

So say goodbye to those prescriptions. Let mother earth's herbs balance your system. Here is a special man's tonic for maintaining healthy masculine function and vigour. The Chinese have long recognized the value of these herbs as rejuvenative and relief for depleted sexual energy resulting from exhaustion. **Honey Moon Tea** contains : **Herba Epimedu, Herba Cynomoru, Woodwardia Japonica, Fructus Polygalea, Semen Astragali Complanati, Radix Ginseng and Pilose Antler.**

Relax, nourish and protect your body. It's a perfect blend that's safe and all-natural. With its pleasant taste and aroma, try some and set fire to your sex life! Avoid embarrassment and frustration, let **Honey Moon Tea make every moment feel like a honeymoon.**

Honey Moon Tea is available at all leading drugstores and selected supermarkets nationwide.



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As an accredited member of the Ice Skating Institute of America, our internationally trained coaches are well-equipped to teach your children the basic skating and hockey techniques.
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  Noel Resultay - Tel: 800-0426

SCHEDULES:
FIGURE SKATING & ICE HOCKEY
M-W-F / 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM or 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
1st Batch : April 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20
2nd Batch : April 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27
3rd Batch : April 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, May 2, 4
4th Batch : April 25, 27, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 9, 11

M-W-F / 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM or 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
1st Batch : May 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20
2nd Batch : May 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 23, 27

T-Th / 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM or 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
1st Batch : April 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
2nd Batch : April 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28, May 3, 5
3rd Batch : April 19, 21, 26, 28, May 3, 5, 10, 12
4th Batch : April 26, 28, May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

T-Th / 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM or 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM
1st Batch : May 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 31
2nd Batch : May 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 30, 31

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COUNCILOR Paul Koh, Singapore Ambassador Lim Kheng Hua and first secretary Raymond Chow Hee Chung

PAENG and Marivic Buenaventura, Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre and Ramon Orlina

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

A promise to keep

BENCAB, Sandy Litchfield and Arturo Luz

MR. AND MS Macapagal and German Ambassador and Mme. Herbert Jess

LETTY Syquia, Rosa Rosal, Ben Farrales, Fortune Ledesma, Mellie and Louie Ablaza

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

SINGAPORE Ambassador **Lim Kheng Hua** tendered a *despedida* for popular counselor **Paul Koh.**

In his farewell speech to his many friends gathered at the ambassador's residence, Paul said he had been assured that we would all be visiting him so there was little chance that he would miss us. And since tickets to Singapore will soon be going for US$120, we were assured Paul would be here often enough.

We also got him to promise to feed us "authentic" Hainanese Chicken Rice which turned out to be Filipinos' favorite Singaporean dish. Despite all those assurances though, the many friends he made will surely miss him. Paul said he had never met friendlier people.

Solo exhibit

Marivic Rufino Buenaventura's optimistic and sunny approach to life is reflected in her choice of bright and pastel colors for her paintings that are a pleasant departure from all that social realism.

Her latest solo exhibit at The Gallery of the Pen was aptly titled "Dreamscapes 2005: Luminescence" and glow the paintings did.

Proud husband **Paeng** (breathing sighs of relief that his stint as governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will soon be over) kept saying he would soon be known as her manager.

Anybody who is somebody in Manila circles was there and what a pleasant surprise it was to see former German ambassador to the Philippines **Herbert** and Mme. **Madeline Jess** here on a brief visit.

New face

It's always a pleasure to see a new face in the art scene especially when she's young, pretty and talented to boot. **Sandy Litchfield**, at her recent exhibit at Galeria Duemila titled "Place by Place," had National Artist **Arturo Luz** and **Bencab** as guests of honor. She showed her mettle through strong, bold strokes and vibrant colors.

She's not a native Manilan but her stepmom being **Dee Marquez Litchfield** ensured her a warm welcome. It didn't hurt that she's a gifted artist, too.

KITKAT Zobel, Jaime Augusto Zobel and Dr. Beniting Legarda

GUL TANGHE, Rafael Panganiban and Tessie Luz

Donation

We are pleased to inform you that Fundacion Santiago signed recently a memorandum of agreement with the Philippine National Museum Foundation for the donation of P3 million for the renovation of the National Art Gallery. We had thought that National Commission for Culture and the Arts' former chair Dr. **Jaime Laya** had taken care of providing for that particular project but funds must have been lacking.

Present at the signing of the agreement were **Chaco Molina**, executive director of Fundacion Santiago; **Pedro Roxas**, president of the *fundacion*; **Antonio Cojuangco**, chair of the National Museum (NM); and **Cora Alvina**, NM director.

Debs ball

T'was the 2005 Opera Ball and Presentation of Debutantes at the Pavilion, a social and—don't forget—cultural event what with visiting conductor **Ernest Hoetzo** conducting the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Organized by members of the Johann Strauss Society and Manila Mandarin for the benefit of the Philippine National Red Cross, it was a grand and glittering evening. At the forefront were Austrian ambassador **Christian** and Mme. **Krepela**, **Letty Syquia**, **Mellie Ablaza**, consul **Fortune Ledesma**, the grand icon of couture, **Ben Farrales**, and the forever beautiful angel of the Red Cross, **Rosa Rosal**.

Have a joyous Easter celebration

From page I1

Room. There will be games, goodies, prizes, egg hunt and Mad Science show. Until April 3, partake of the buffet breakfast at the Grill, enjoy Health Club's gym, pool and sauna room and avail of the 20-percent discount at Head Zone Salon, all at reasonable rates. Easter room packages are priced at P2,300++ for superior rooms, P2,600++ for junior suites, P3,000++ for one-bedroom suites and P4,000++ for two-bedroom suites. Get bigger discounts when you stay for three nights. Children can delight in movie presentations, arts and crafts classes, cooking demos and parlor games at the fun room when they check in with their families today until March 26. Call 6387777.

INTER-CONTINENTAL Manila offers the Holy Week Room Sale on March 23-27. For P6,000 net (single or double occupancy), stay for two nights in a deluxe room with these added perks: free buffet breakfast at Café Jeepney, free use of pool, access to Red Corner Gym, 15-percent discount at Suriya Spa, 10-percent discount at Café Jeepney and Room Service plus a chance to win prizes. Overnight stay rate is at P3,500 net inclusive of buffet breakfast at Café Jeepney. The Eat n' Swim Easter Egg Hunt will be held March 27. Start off with a Mass at 10 a.m. at the Skytop. From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., partake of a brunch buffet at the Grand Ballroom. There will also be an egg hunt and games. Call 8159711.

EDSA Shangri-La presents the Easter 2+1 Room Package until April 15. For P11,810++ stay two nights in a deluxe room and get the third consecutive night free. Package includes a buffet breakfast for two on the first two days, 30-percent off on at the Valet Shop, 10-percent off on food and beverage (except Good Friday, Black Saturday and Easter Sunday) and 20-percent discount on Easter Sunday Fair on March 27 at Isla Ballroom, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The fair features games, kiddie shows, *merienda* buffet, loot bags and prizes for P700 per adult and P500 per child. Call 6369082 to 87.

DISCOVERY Suites offers an Easter package until March 27. Avail of a two-night accommodation Easter package for P5,800++ for a junior suite, P6,800++ for a one-bedroom suite, P11,800++ for a two-bedroom suite and P15,000++ for a three-bedroom suite. This comes with a buffet breakfast at Serendipity Lounge for two persons availing the junior suite and one-bedroom suite. four persons for the two-bedroom suite and six persons for the three-bedroom suite rates. The package also includes two complimentary passes to the Easter Sunday kiddie events at the 41st and 42nd floors. Fun begins at 3 p.m. Additional passes are available for P250. For the first 50 Urban Tykes members, admission is free. Call 6352222.

EGG HUNT for young diners. The Peninsula Manila will have its annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Rigodon Ballroom and Garden. The event is open to kids 4-12 years old. Special eggs will have surprises inside while others can be converted to chocolate! Children 3 years old and below can pick their eggs while watching their favorite cartoons on a giant projector screen. The Peninsula Manila's Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday 12 p.m.-12:30 p.m. for kids 4-7 years old, and 1-1:30 p.m. for kids 8-12 years old who are dining at The Lobby, Nielsen's and MI Place on Easter. Call 8872888 or 8123456, extension 2205.

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You can also register your purchases through email: bpi lifestyle@tlsa.com. Just email the following purchase information as they appear in your charge slip: (1) 16-digit BPI Express Credit Card number (2) transaction amount, including centavos (3) transaction date: mm/dd/yy (4) transaction time: hh/mm.

Promo period: November 15, 2004-April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2004

PLUS! Win this when you apply now! All approved BPI Edge/Mini Edge applications including BPI Edge/Mini Edge applications submitted by existing active BPI cardholders, from March 15 to May 15, 2005 will get a chance to win 1 of 10 Siemens SF65 mobile phones with a 1.3 megapixel SXGA camera!

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0598, Series of 2005

Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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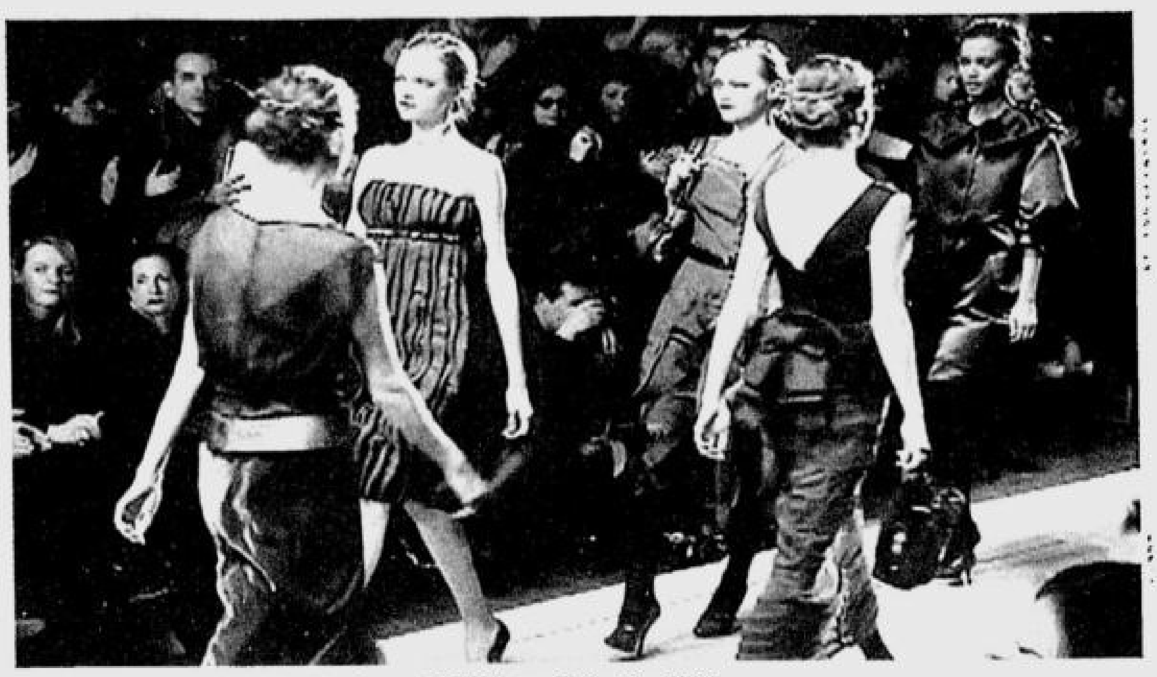
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SCENE stealer. Actress Uma Thurman with president of Louis Vuitton Yves Carcelle

MARC Jacobs takes a bow.

ACTRESS Selma Blair in the audience


MODELS sporting LV's darkly elegant Fall/Winter Collection 2005

Smashing new collection from Louis Vuitton

JUST got back from my trip to Paris where I stayed for close to two weeks.

The City of Lights was experiencing the worst weather in 20 years; it was minus 3 degrees. I told my friends here that if they had come across a story of a Pinoy frozen in the streets of Paris in this paper's World News section, that would have been me.

It was uncomfortably cold, but since I was there I made the most of my trip.

I was in Paris partly on the invitation of **Joyce Ma.** She is the owner of Joyce Boutiques in Hong Kong and is credited with bringing in high fashion like Armani, Yohji Yamamoto, Prada, Dries Van Noten, etc. to this part of the world.

She is undoubtedly Asia's fashion empress and was even conferred the Legion of Honor Award, the highest award given by the French government to any civilian.

From Manila, her guests included **Doris Ho, Linda Ho McAfee, Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo**, and **Dedes Zobel**.

It was supposed to be a vacation for me but I worked for the INQUIRER, the TV show "Look Who's Talking" and of course Philippine Tatler. I did interviews with the following brands' communication directors: Comptoir Sud Pacifique, Thierry Mugler colognes and Clarins, as well as a one-on-one interview with the **Count** and **Countess D'Ornano**, the owners of Sisley Beauty.

I visited the Louis Vuitton museum, which happens to be his actual home and houses the LV workshops where special orders are manufactured. I also visited the revamped, totally modern Cartier boutique in Champs Elysee and the Philippe Starck-designed Baccarat Museum.

The time I was there happened to be women's fashion week, and I was fortunate to catch three fashion shows: Yves Saint Laurent, Yohji Yamamoto and Louis Vuitton's Fall/Winter 2005 collection. I also managed to interview Filipinos based in Paris like **Babette Aquino Benoit, Stephanie Zubiri, Carla Cabalfin** and **Melissa Lopez.**

Those are some of the things I did. In the following weeks, I will write about all of them in depth, but this opening salvo belongs to Louis Vuitton as it presented its new women's collection.

Starry arrival

The much-awaited show was held at Parc Andre Citroen, Rue de la Montagne, at the 15 arrondisement. It's a large building that can seat about 800 persons and where all LV fashion shows have been held since **Marc Jacobs** became its designer.

T'NT
TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

Before the show started, there was a commotion because of the arrival of one stellar individual. Actress **Uma Thurman**, who stars in all the advertising campaigns of LV for Spring/Summer 2005, entered dressed in a white long coat and with her boyfriend, hip hotelier **Andre Balasz.**

The usually jaded photographers responded with whistles and loud shouts of her name. This reminded me of a scene from those glamorous '50s movies. Thurman exuded that old Hollywood glamour and elegance only few actresses possess. She was a picture of perfection.

Another celebrity who was there, who was beautiful but did not elicit the same reaction, was actress **Selma Blair.**

As the show was about to start, I spotted Vogue editor **Anna Wintour** with **Andre Leon Talley.** You couldn't miss them since they came in through the models' entrance and on to the catwalk. Fashion's queen and prince do know how to make an entrance.

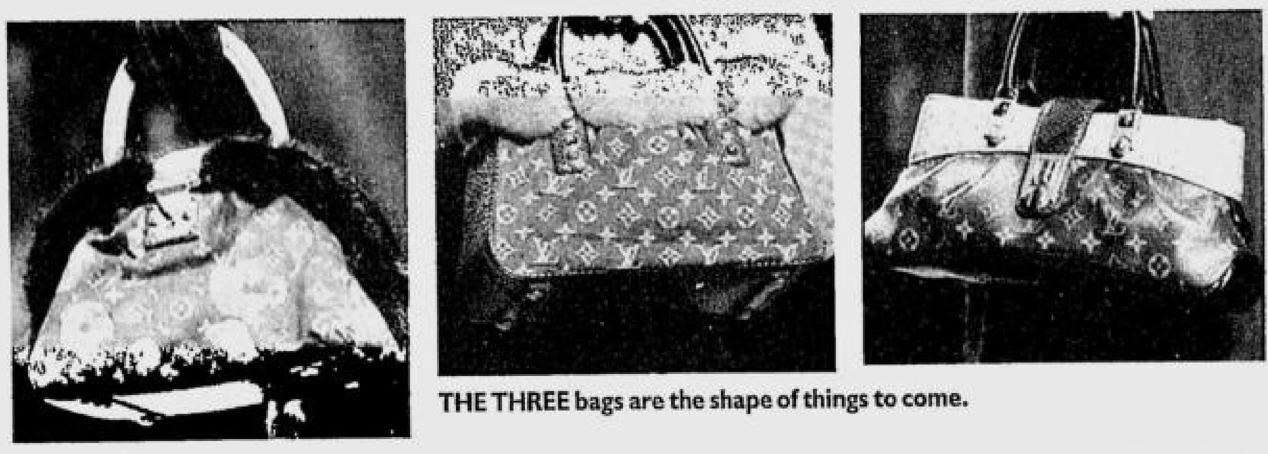
Also spotted were IHT's **Suzy Menkes, Isabella Blow**, Visionnaire's and style muse **Cecilia Dean**, Harrod's owner **Mohammed Al-Fayed**, New York Times' **Cathy Horyn** and from LV, senior PR for Asia Pacific **Andrew Glenn.**

Darkly elegant collection

The show opened with a model wearing a black coat with puffed sleeves and a long tight skirt. It was a preview of the collection's motif, which was darkly elegant, lean silhouettes with soft, billowing sleeves, the use of embellishments on black, cinched waists with materials like mink, herringbone tweed and lizard leather.

This is a huge departure from the F/W 2004-05 collection which had color and opulence as the theme. This time around, the mood was different. Black was back and restrained elegance was in.

In press interviews, Marc Jacobs explained that his influences had sprung from his trip to Vienna, "where they [had] immersed themselves in the turn-of-the-century arts and crafts movement to find a stricter, darker source of structure and texture."


THE THREE bags are the shape of things to come.

But if you think all the trademark LV opulence was gone, think twice. Women's accessories, especially the handbags, did not follow the dark route. Jacobs had them in mink, python, art deco style, tulle, crystals, gold prints, bright red and turquoise colors and embellished with semi-precious stones.

IHT's revered fashion and style section editor, Suzy Menkes, had this to say about the collection: "The concept of sober luxury may sound like a contradiction in terms. But in the powerful collection that Marc Jacobs sent out for Louis Vuitton, he caught the vibe perfectly, from the slender lines of over-the-knee suits to the intense decoration, not least in the bags. Their succulent surfaces, the monogram logo embedded in plush quilting, haberdashery trimmings or even gemstones were little works of art."

LV was one of the three giants that closed the F/W 2005 Women's collection along with Lanvin and Yves Saint Laurent.

Fashion's biggest name and empire knows all too well how to do just that with a triumphant bang! The perfect way, indeed, to close Fashion Week.

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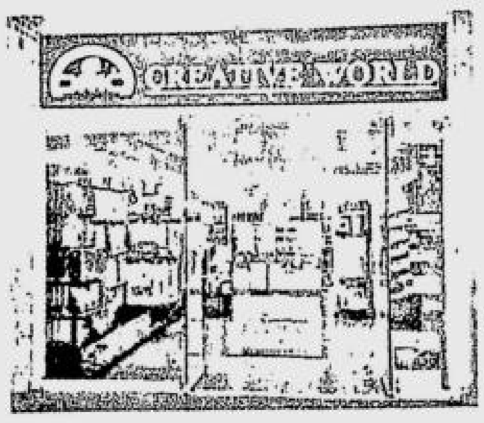

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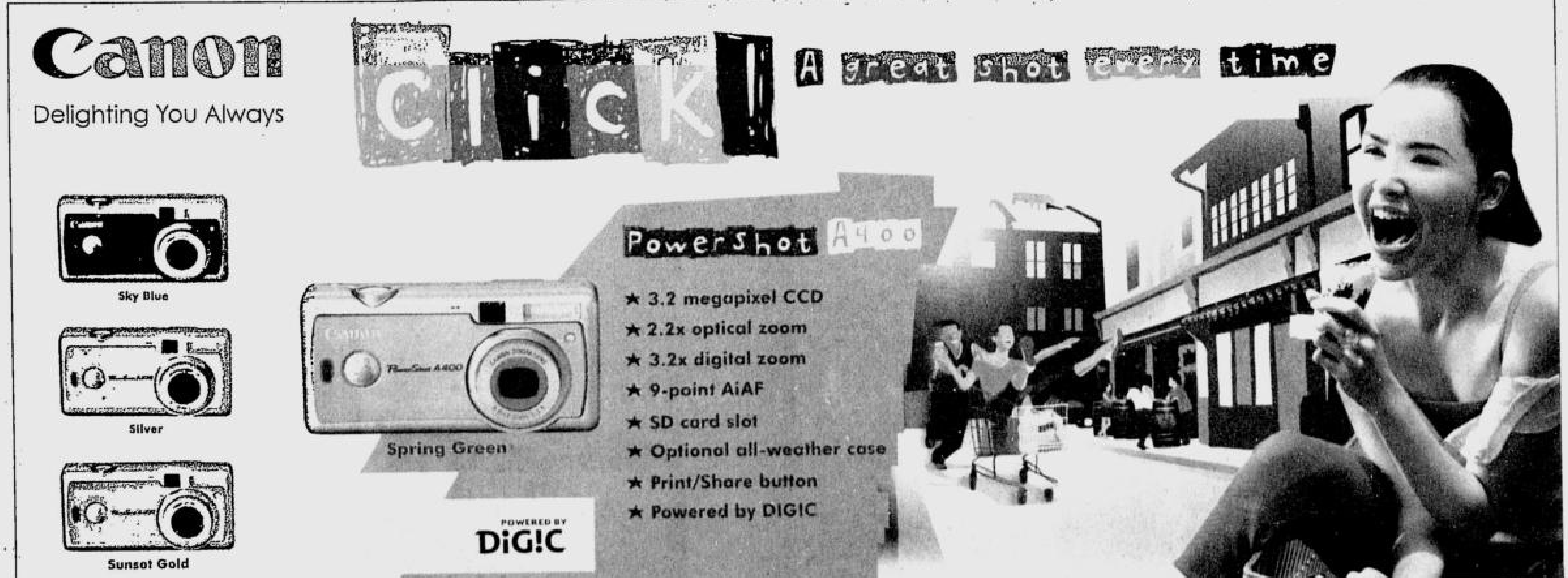

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Baguio balls and fiesta frolic

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

THE BEAUTY about living in a country with so many islands is our cultural diversity. The fiesta best exemplifies this variety. Throughout the year, different towns celebrate their particular patron saints and religious figures, or sometimes the focus is on staple fruits or the livelihood of the people. These celebrations show off one fine trait all of us Filipinos share—we know how to party!

The more famous fiestas, like the Ati-atihan in Kalibo and the Sinulog in Cebu, draw crowds of local and foreign tourists each year. Flocking to those cities, visitors are treated to nonstop food fests, concerts, parades and street parties.

Even the smaller festivals, like the recently concluded Strawberry Festival in La Trinidad, Benguet, and the Pintados de Pasi Festival in Passi City, Iloilo, are just as grandly celebrated, with as much enthusiasm.

For Baguio, the renowned Summer Capital of the Philippines, the sunflower has become the symbol of the annual Flower Festival or the Panagbenga, which started a decade ago. Taking a break to revel in the cool climate and unique culture of the city, the local residents parade show floats of flowers, don multi-hued costumes mimicking blooms of the highland region and dance in their ethnic tribe outfits.

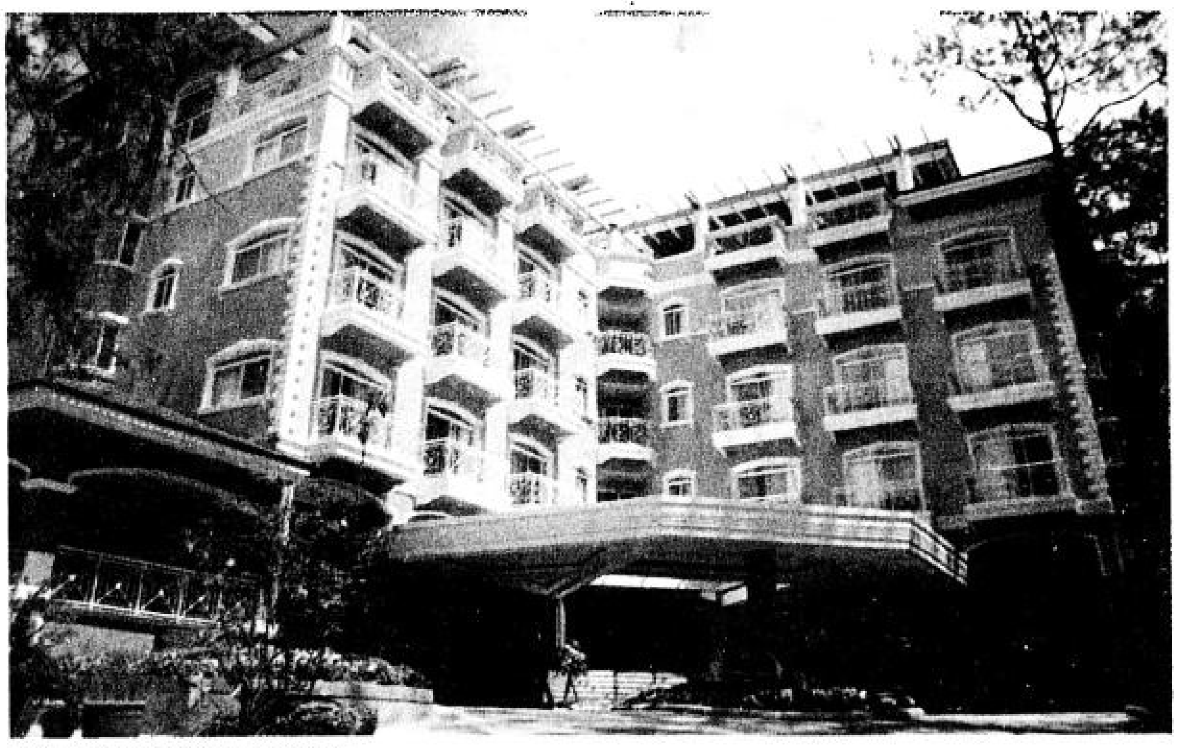
I find that Baguio has the bravest men—capable of parading with their half-exposed rear ends and with their family jewels conservatively kept from view with just the littlest bits of woven tapestry on their g-strings.

Early this month, Baguio City was put back into the list of summer destinations after the City of Pines got a clean bill of health as the last bits of the "meningo" scare disappeared.

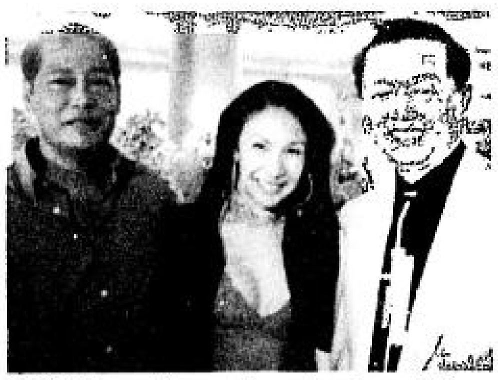
New boutique hotel

With everything turning sunflower bright for Baguio, I headed up there for the opening of Hotel Elizabeth, a new, Mediterranean-style, boutique hotel with the amenities and personalized service of a luxurious city hotel.

I was in the Pine City for the opening of the new, Mediterranean-inspired Hotel Elizabeth, and I had a blast


HOTEL Elizabeth in Baguio City

REP. Mauricio Dumogan


JUDGE Joner Fernando, performing artist Giselle Sanchez and Dr. Jess Corres

GROWING family. Joel, Ana and Julia Fernando

BENGUET Mining CEO Philip Romualdez, Councilor Tenefrancia, hotel owner Jet Fernando

LOBBY mural by Alfred Galvez

GOLFERS at the Baguio Country Club

HOTEL guests Tita See, Zita Lim, Alice Garcia, Nora Corres and Cora Maglaya

Well into the home stretch of my pregnancy, traveling by car was my only option of transportation, since airlines won't take me and we no longer have an Orient Express-style train to take me all the way to the Mountain Province.

However, the trip was not too grueling, since the completion of the ten-lane, ultra-smooth North Expressway cuts the travel time by an hour.

Finally, we have roads that are world-class, similar to the Autobahn in Germany (unfortunately our version still has too many pollutant-emitting vehicles). I was told that the NLEX has a professionalized towing service, is highly computerized, has camera monitoring and is cheaper than the SLEX by 40 percent per km.

Like they say, time is golden so any amount saved from traffic and road stress is worth the toll fee.

After countless "Are we there yet?" comments from my daughter Annika who took the trip with me, we reached the foot of the Kennon zigzag road at dusk. Of course, I had to show her the main attention of the winding road: the stone lion's head that to my surprise now sports a painted, gold mane. Wow. It's even tackier now!

But I shouldn't be so bad. Although the lion has lost some of its magnificence as it guards the entrance to the city, perhaps this is only my pro-Rotary thinking since my husband is a Rotarian and not a Lion.

The refreshing scent of pine trees welcomed us as we headed straight to the hotel, which is on Gibraltar Road passing Wright Park. I spent most of my childhood summers in Baguio, and Wright Park was where I began my love for riding horses—all those years thinking the horses there were full-grown stallions.

Weekend celebration

The grand opening of Hotel Elizabeth, owned by Jet and Beth Fernando, was a whole weekend celebration, with events including a golf tournament at the Baguio Country Club, an art exhibit and a mini concert featuring sexy, sultry siren Giselle Sanchez.

Amid all the festivities, I was just happy to go to the meningo-free market and buy strawberries, which were so cheap!

At the golf tournament, an American visitor from Indianapolis, Mac McDaniel, got a hole-in-one! Beth told me that these friends of hers who flew in just for the opening would surely be back to play golf and enjoy Baguio, Boracay and our other tourist destinations as well. Every tourist counts!

The Fernando family has been in the hotel business for years (they have a six-hotel chain in Metro Manila called Hotel Fersal). The wonderful thing about them is that they have kept their investments in the country and are helping our economy in their own way by creating jobs.

They also are very generous. Proceeds of the art exhibit sale and 20 percent of the income generated during the opening were donated to a charitable cause in Baguio.

TOURISM director Pura Molintas between her husband Rocky and mural artist Paul Quiano

FRIENDS from Indianapolis Joyce and Mac McDaniel, and Julie Schmitt

FAMILY photo of Hotel Elizabeth owners

Instead of the traditional ribbon-cutting, the guests of honor did a salad-tossing affair with strawberry dressing in a giant, wooden salad bowl. After the ceremony, I chatted with Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon, who told me about the rest of the festivities in his city and how successful all these were.

CASUAL ambience of Flora Café with Mediterranean frescos

Colorful sites

Indeed, Baguio is happy to be in the news, not because of the health issue but because of the Flower Festival and the Philippine Military Academy graduation ceremony.

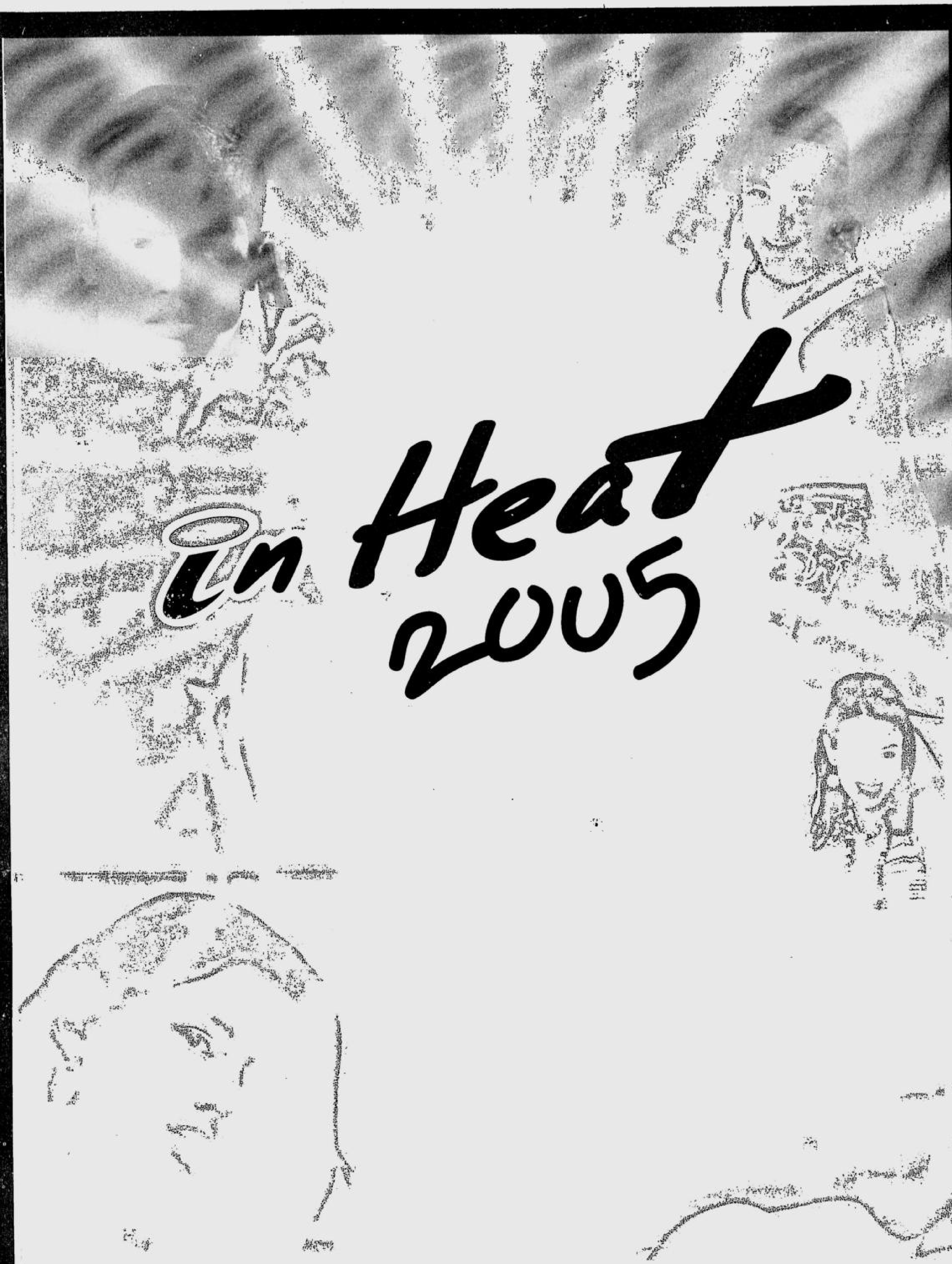
The week I was there, four of the twelve female graduating cadets of the Philippine Military Academy landed on the top of their class, the highest number in eleven years since the PMA began accepting women. Go girls! You make me proud to be a Filipina!

If Baguio is in your short list of summer destinations, do stay at Hotel Elizabeth (email: reservations@fersalhotel.cjb.net) with its charming interiors filled with Mediterranean frescos and murals by artist Alfred Galvez.

I helped with the interiors, so one can expect the unusual—no traditional, log cabin designs here.

I was truly amazed with the number of fiestas we have in the Philippines. When I checked out the colorful website of WOW Philippines, I was so glad to view the sites promoting the different celebrations. We are truly a nation of happy and contented people. It is all a matter of perspective. Looking forward and having a positive outlook are the best ways to live.

Email me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.



IN HEAT 2005:
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send mercury rising

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Gone are the cool, breezy nights we've enjoyed till just recently when March came around signalling the start of the heatwave and the end of the school year. Summer is most definitely back with a raging vengeance and both Addict Mobile and AMP are all geared up to ignite the holidays with a highly flammable concoction of parties mixed with so much more! From March 13 till May 31, 2005, Addict Mobile & AMP present "In Heat"—this summer's most sizzling series of events, phone deals, perks and freebies served to you flaming hot as only Addict Mobile and AMP know how.

Feel temperatures soar as they fire up the hottest phones with the hottest deals in town. Get ready for blazing perks that only Addict Mobile and AMP subscribers are entitled to. Expect an eruption of freebies as summer burns like desire.

Most of all, if you haven't already felt the surge of energized heatwaves headed your way, then brace yourself for a string of adrenaline-charged parties, with two massive ones about to explode in Boracay in the next two weeks!

This Holy Week and Bora Bound the following week, Addict Mobile and AMP return to the shores of everyone's favorite party island. This year, Boracay once again plays host to tens of thousands of fun and sun-seekers with parties, concerts, games and other beach activities that are sure to send mercury rising. From Slinky to Steve Mills to Johnny Verse, there's a gig to suit each and every music lover's taste. And for the following week, Addict Mobile and AMP present Bora Bound, yet another week of non-stop partying and will feature the likes of Hed Kandi Beach House, Reggae Nights and Celebrity Beach X-Games.

Text "Heat" to 209 and prepare to soak up the sun and feel the heat with In Heat this summer—only from Addict Mobile and AMP!

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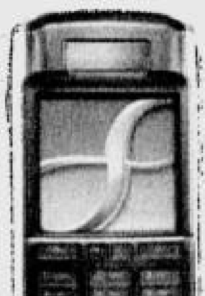
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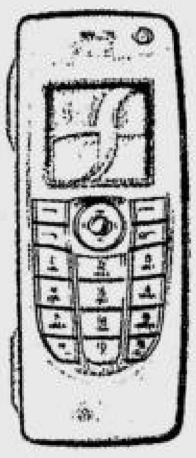
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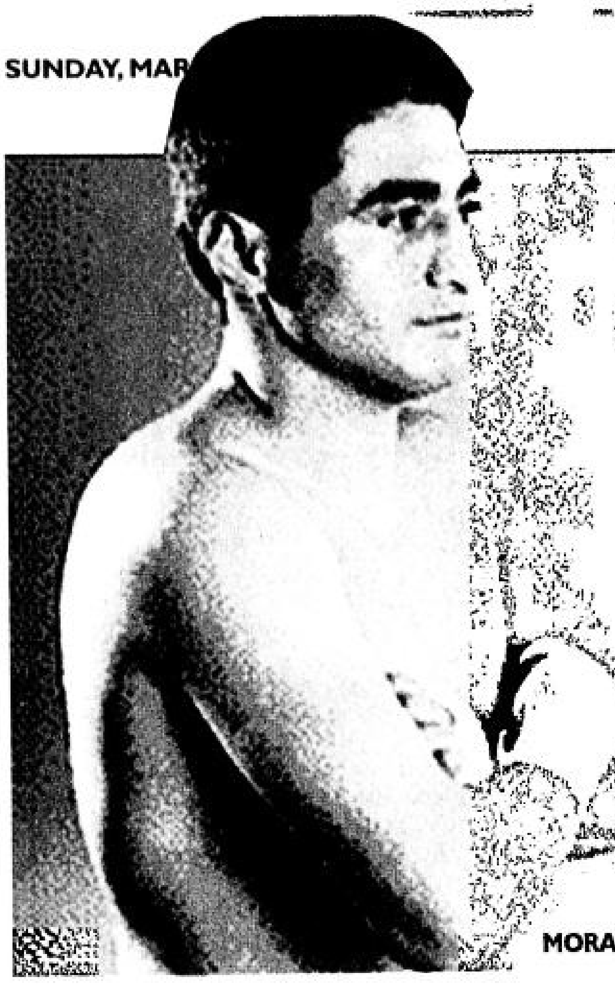
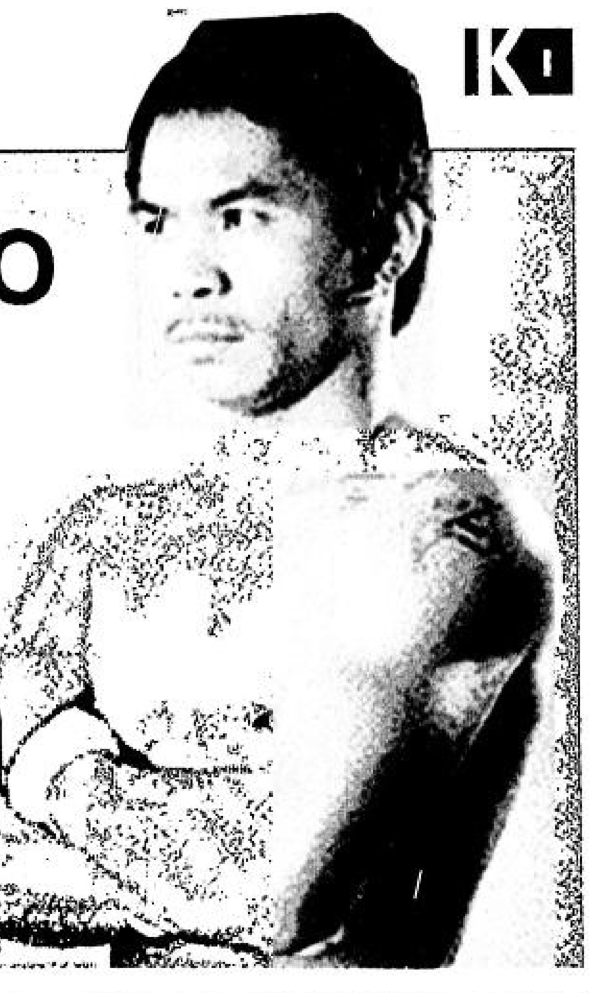


MORALES VS PACQUIAO

Analysts mix it up, too



MORALES: 47 wins,2 losses; 34 KOs

PACQUIAO: 39 wins, 2 losses, 2 draws; 30 KOs

ROUND-UP

Experts offer clashing fight predictions

THE CONVENTIONAL wisdom follows a simple logic. Manny Pacquiao destroyed Marco Antonio Barrera in 11 rounds. But Barrera beat archrival and fellow Mexican Erik Morales twice in three fights. Therefore, Pacquiao will whip Morales too.

Boxing experts around the world know, however, that the sport sometimes known as the sweet science follows a different logic. A look at leading boxing websites quickly shows why things cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula.

Writing in www.saddoboxing.com, UK writer James Macdonald shows where conventional wisdom comes up short when he paid tribute to Morales' boxing skills. "As much as I love Barrera, he is the inferior 'boxer' when compared to Morales (not an inferior fighter, mind). That is why Barrera's destruction at the hands of Pacquiao will have little bearing on the outcome this Saturday [Sunday in Manila]."

Ron Borges, in www.boxingranks.com, also questions conventional wisdom, but by criticizing Pacquiao's over-dependence on his lethal left. "That he handled Barrera so convincingly while Morales lost two of three nip-and-tuck battles with his great rival has left Pacquiao a slight betting favorite, but it may also have turned him into a boxer who may be mistakenly placing a bit too much faith in the contrast between what happened for each of them against Barrera."

Different experts have focused on other points of comparison, such as age (Pacquiao is younger by two years), experience (Morales has logged many more miles), hand speed (Paquiao has no peer), championships (Morales has won titles in three weight divisions), early-round strategy (Pacquiao is a jump-starter), iron chin or "whiskers" (strictly speaking, Morales has never been knocked down), and so on. There are also the intangibles: who has the fightingest heart, the steadiest nerves, the hungriest appetite.

Ringside Report

The 13 writers of www.RingsideReport.com may be said to mirror the state of opinion among boxing experts; they are evenly split.

"Bad" Brad Berkwitt asks whether Morales has "slowed down after so many constant wars over the years" and how Pacquiao is handling the increase in weight, then picks Pacquiao: "I am going to go with Pacman by 11th round TKO."

Two others share his KO forecast.

"As much respect as I have for Morales, I think he's in over his head in this fight. I pick Pac-Man with a knockout late in the fight, probably around the tenth round," says Jason Liimatta. Epie Almeda thinks Pacquiao will "win by stoppage," because "Morales has seen his best days."

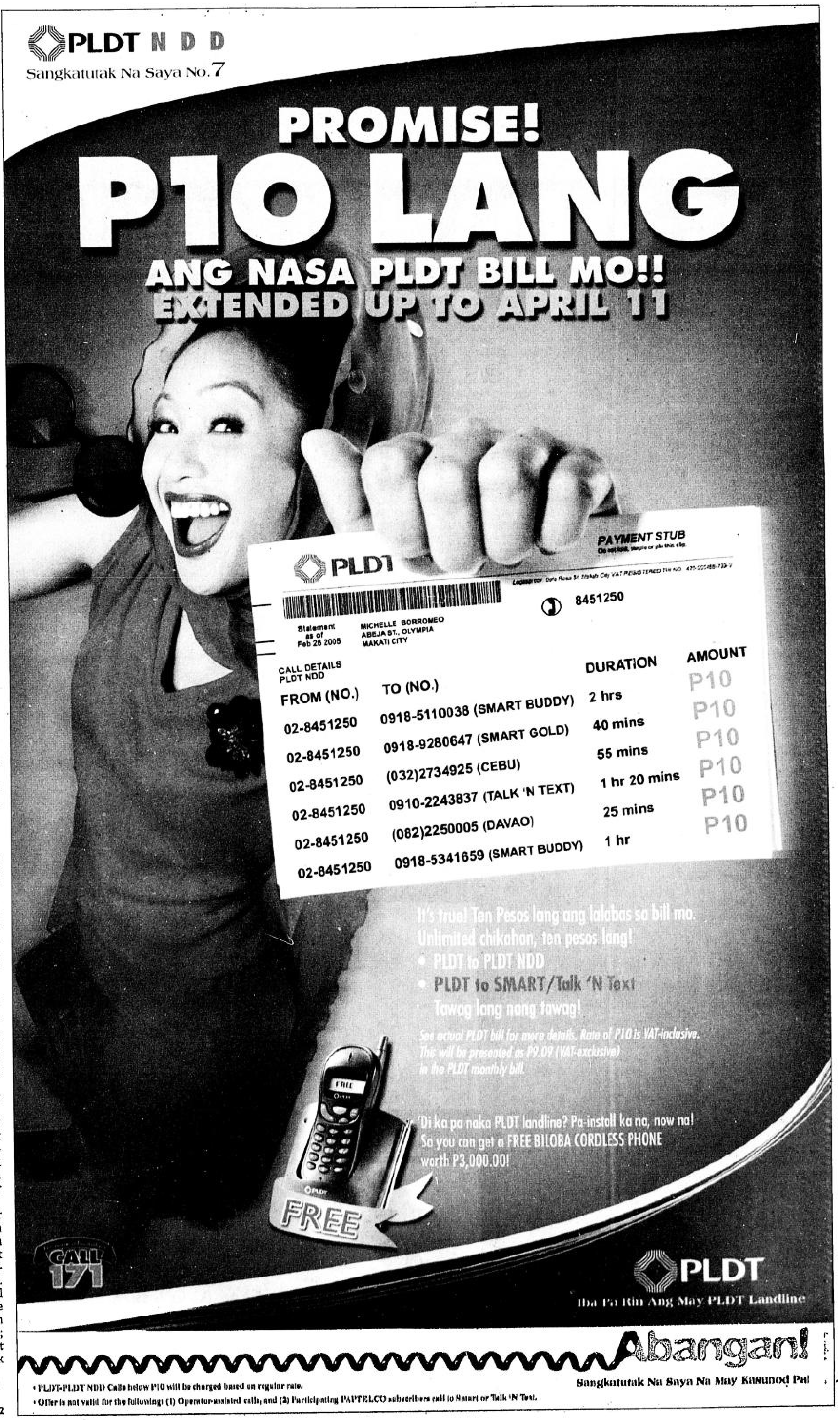
Three others think Pacquiao will win, but by decision.

"I am going with Pacquiao by decision," says Jose Antonio Rivera. "Pacquiao just seems to be very hungry at this stage in his career." Vito Trabucco thinks Pacquiao will "roll by" Morales, earning a unanimous decision. Brian Wilbur predicts a majority decision for the Filipino.

An equal number cast their vote for Morales, although most of them predict a knockout. David McKee thinks the "Pacman will look good early" but foresees that "around round six the tide will turn." He predicts Morales will win by TKO in the ninth. Sean Newman predicts that Morales will knock out Pacquiao in seven rounds, because his "superior overall ability." Paul Concannon also expects "a late stoppage" for Morales; "Pacman is a helluva fighter but he has got more questions hanging over him than Erik Morales coming in."

Bill MacTrinder also sees a "late round

EXPERTS/ K2



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Pacquiao's Wild Card advantage

Freddie Roach's championship gym adds technique and discipline to boxer's power and speed

By John Nery, Executive Producer, InqTV

YOU COULD say the whole point is to live up to the gym's name.

A wild card, of course, is American slang for something unpredictable, an unforeseeable factor. That makes Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, in Hollywood, the perfect place to train Manny Pacquiao. You could say the million-dollar boxer's "longest training camp" was designed to make him less predictable.

After beating the first of the Mexican trinity of boxing icons, Marco Antonio Barrera, into submission, Pacquiao showed his limitations when he drew with the second, Juan Manuel Marquez. He had famously knocked Marquez down three times in the first round with his thundering left cross; but success with his most potent weapon made him forget everything else in his armory.

That night last May, to hear the laidback Roach say it, "he got kinda happy with the left hand."

After getting his bearings in the first two rounds, Marquez figured out how and when to avoid Pacquiao's left, or at least contain the damage. After the controversial draw, some boxing experts immediately said the Marquez match proved that Pacquiao was a one-dimensional fighter. Rather memorably, one boxing writer said Pacquiao showed up at the MGM Grand Arena without a Plan B.

So you could say that the whole point of his eight-week training, in preparation for today's fight against the third person of the Mexican trinity, Erik Morales, was precisely to furnish him with Plan B, and perhaps C and D and E as well.

"I'm just making Manny a more complete fighter," Roach told the INQUIRER and InqTV last month, in his cramped office inside Wild Card.

The smell of sweat

Wild Card, located at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Vine Street, in the heart of Hollywood, is a small, simple, four-walls-and-a-ring affair. It sits on top of a Laundromat; you enter through a solitary door at the back.

When you walk in, you immediately smell the faint scent of sweat. Even on Sundays, when the gym is technically closed, you can smell it. (Technically, because some die-hards continue to show up, and some of the trainers live in the gym.) The windows are never opened. "Everybody's trying to make weight," one of its seven trainers once said.

As you walk in, there is a workaday counter to your left. That's where much of the business part of the gym is conducted: ex-heavyweight Justine Fortune advising a gym regular, ex-featherweight Pepper Roach (the coach's brother) answering the occasional phone call, ex-light heavyweight Maka Foley collecting the dues.

(The rates are $50 a month, or "$5 a day if you come once a week," in Pepper's words. The dues allow you to use the gym, but to hire the services of a trainer you need to pay them by the hour. Some charge $50 an hour, others $25, still others $10.)

In the center of the gym is a standard Everlast ring. Gym bags and duffel bags line one side of it.

There is a treadmill, a couple of double-end bags, three speed bags, four punching bags.

The walls are plastered with boxing pictures, fight bills, posters of famous boxers. In the middle of the gym, along one side of the ring, is a black-and-white picture of a young Muhammad Ali. It looks to all the world like an icon on a boxing altar.

Across the gym from this picture, on the outside wall of Roach's cramped office, is another picture of Ali, no longer young. He is inside a ring, giving pointers to his daughter Laila, who of course took up the unforgiving sport after him. It takes some time before your eyes adjust, and then you realize that the picture was taken in Wild Card.

Roach has said in more than one interview that Ali's visit was the happiest day of his life. Coming from a man who was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame for training numerous world champions, starting with his first one, four-time champion Virgil Hill, and including James Toney and Mike Tyson, this is saying something.

Working the mitts

Like his two brothers Pepper and Joey and his father Paul, Roach fought as a featherweight, but a knee injury stopped him cold. Today he walks with a limp, but if you only saw him inside the ring, working the punch mitts, and unless you knew about it beforehand, you wouldn't know his knees had betrayed him.

When Pacquiao is in training, he follows Roach's regular schedule: sparring sessions three times a week, and punch mitts on alternate days.

One session started with Pacquiao rattling off with a series of right hooks, seven or eight of them, in quick succession.

They then quickly settle into a routine, trying or practicing certain sequences. Two right jabs, a left cross, then a right hook. A right jab, a left hook, a right hook, then a right to the side. Two right jabs, then a left hook.

Pacquiao punctuates the sequences with his own sound effects. A one-two combination: "pak, boom!" Two rights then a left hook: "pak, pak, boom!" A prolonged sequence: "uhm, uhm, uhm," then, "boom!"

(At one point, bothered by the headband he was wearing, he takes it off and throws it across the ring.)

Roach, who has taken off his eyeglasses, is all business. "One-two," he calls out. Or "Four," meaning two right jabs, a left hook, then a right. "Again." And then "Again." He grunts instructions or encouragement. "Good." "In." "Under."

Working with the mitts, Pacquiao and Roach talk all the time. In another session, for instance, Pacquiao stops in the middle of a round and looks up at Roach. "Sometimes," he says, outlining a right cross to the body, "but sometimes," he continues, exaggerating a right hook. His trainer nods. Good. Okay.

When the automated bell rings, they take a break for 30 seconds. When the bell rings again, they jump back to the center. Each session runs three minutes each, like a regular round in boxing. On a regular day, they do six or seven rounds.

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Technique, you might say, is just another word for Plan B.

Toe-to-toe with Freddie Roach

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We needed two months to get ready

[Manny's in great shape right now and this is a little bit unusual, because this is the longest training camp we've ever had together. We will have 8 weeks total by fight time..., because the thing is we came in ready to fight [Juan Manuel] Marquez then Marquez pulled out. This fight came up a little bit earlier but we needed two months to get ready for this guy...

He's making the right moves

The thing is, when I watched him spar today he's making the moves that I want him to make. He's being very alert, very sharp. I need to get a couple of new sparring partners up because he's starting to wear those two out now.

Language is an advantage

I talk to [assistant trainer] Buboy [Fernandez] so he tells Manny in Filipino because he understands that language much better than English, even though he understands me, of course. But the thing is, Buboy can translate it and the sparring partners [and his opponents], they don't really know what we're up to.

He likes the crowd

There's plusses and negatives [to opening the training sessions to the public] of course but ... that's why it's just one day a week. The other days are private so we could work on the things we need to work on. And today's like performance day. So I let him box today, he likes the crowd, he enjoys it, he loves the people, he feeds off it ... He likes to perform for people and actually I think I can get a little more out of him, when there's people here, because he gets excited about it and he's pumped up.

They're not just sparring partners

The thing is, all the fighters he's working with though are getting ready for fights of their own credit. They are not just sparring partners. You know they are good fighters, like Ray Beltran in the first set, he is a very young prospect, he's coming up ... and the thing is, I don't believe in getting just sparring partners out there, they just go through the motions. I want guys that make Manny work because I tell everyone of them: If you knock Manny down you get a thousand-dollar bonus ... because I want them all trying their hardest.

We vary his days

Justin Fortune, my strength and conditioning coach, takes Manny running every day. That consists of track days, sprint days, hill days, distance days. We kind of vary it. The variation won't get him bored also, because you are doing the same thing every day. And my philosophy on boxing is we box three days a week, and the other three days we work on technique with the [punch] mitts. So we box on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we work on technique.

He has good power in his right hook

Mostly I'm just making Manny a more complete fighter. The things we are working on, we were working on for Marquez; we ended with Morales. In Manny's last fight he got kinda happy with the left hand. He kinda just got stuck in the mode. [But he] has power in his right hook, just as much as [in] his left hand, but the thing is he doesn't have the confidence in that shot yet so we're working on that every day. And if you noticed he threw a lot of right hooks today in sparring so it's starting to become natural to him.

The hands have eyes

If you have to think about it, it's already gone. The thing is boxing's all reactions. You know what they say. Your hands have eyes and they'll find the opening. It's very true because if you see it it's already gone. It's gotta be the instinctive thing to do.

They are all individuals

I train every fighter different because they are all individuals ... my first two champions, I wrote down what they did every day [to] try to come up with the formula; what was a perfect formula for getting a guy [ready] for a title fight. But they were such different individuals ... You need to treat everyone as an individual in this work because you take their plusses and you work on their weaknesses. You know everyone has different typer of weaknesser and strengths. Of course some are punchers, some are boxers, so it's really very hard to come up with a perfect formula. But I know Manny pretty well now because we've been together for three years and I know what he needs so we push the right buttons; when we need to push him. The thing is, I don't want to over-train him for this fight because we are going through a couple weeks more than usual, so I'm watching him a little bit closely just because there is a possibility to over-train a fighter ...

You gotta suck it up

Manny is a role model. I mean, the thing is for you young guys out there [to] remember it's possible. I mean you know just because you grew up poor as Manny did and I did, and so forth, [you stay poor.] You work hard, good things will happen, and the thing is, You gotta suck it up and push hard. And he is a great exampler. You know what I mean, you dedicate [yourself] enough, you work hard enough, it's definitely a possibility to break through and become maybe rich and famous.

Excerpts from the interview, edited for publication.

Experts clashing...

From page K1

stoppage," principally because "Pacquiao will run out of gas late." Isaac Barrio shares the same view, and specifies an 11th round TKO.

Jason Tremble sees Morales "showing his ring leadership" and winning by a split decision.

RingsideReport's 13th expert calls the fight anybody's game. Says George Diaz Smith: "I'm going with a fierce dogfight in which each get knockdowns, but neither will let up for punching percentage that will astound the pugilistic world. I don't think anybody will be satisfied with the verdict of a draw."

Ring Talk

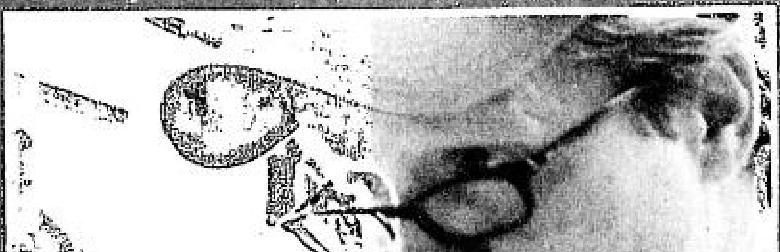
A boxer-turned-policeman-turned-writer, Pedro Fernandez, cleverly avoids choosing one side over another. He writes instead about what he believes is the crucial, make-or-break aspect of the fight. "I will take you through the basic mechanics of boxing that apply when a left-handed fighter (Pacquiao) meets a right-handed pug (Morales). This tiny aspect alone I feel will be the determining factor come Saturday night."

He means the positioning of the boxers' feet; more precisely, the placing of "the lead foot on the outside of that of his opponent. Reason being is that when left meets right, the outside foot has an overwhelming advantage."

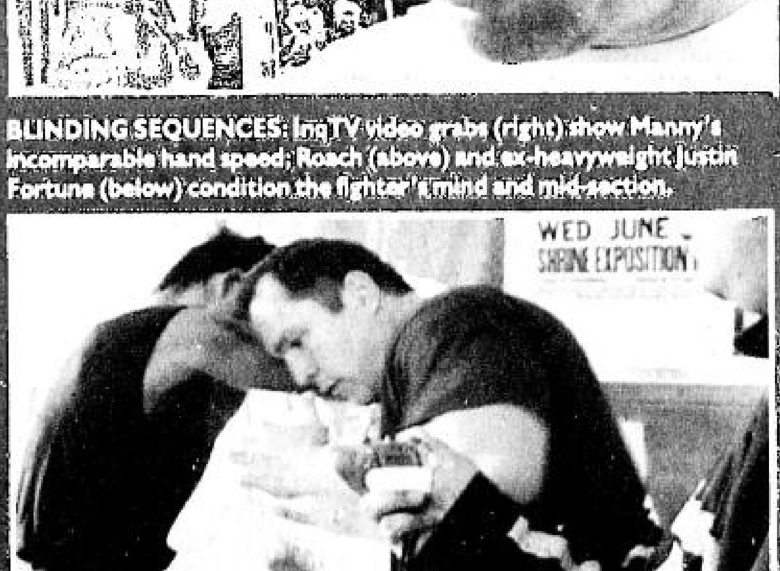
Fernandez's point: "Morales leads with his left hand and left foot. Manny is of the other hand and he puts his right hand and foot out front. Where these feet are positioned in the MGM Grand ring Saturday night will most likely determine the winner."

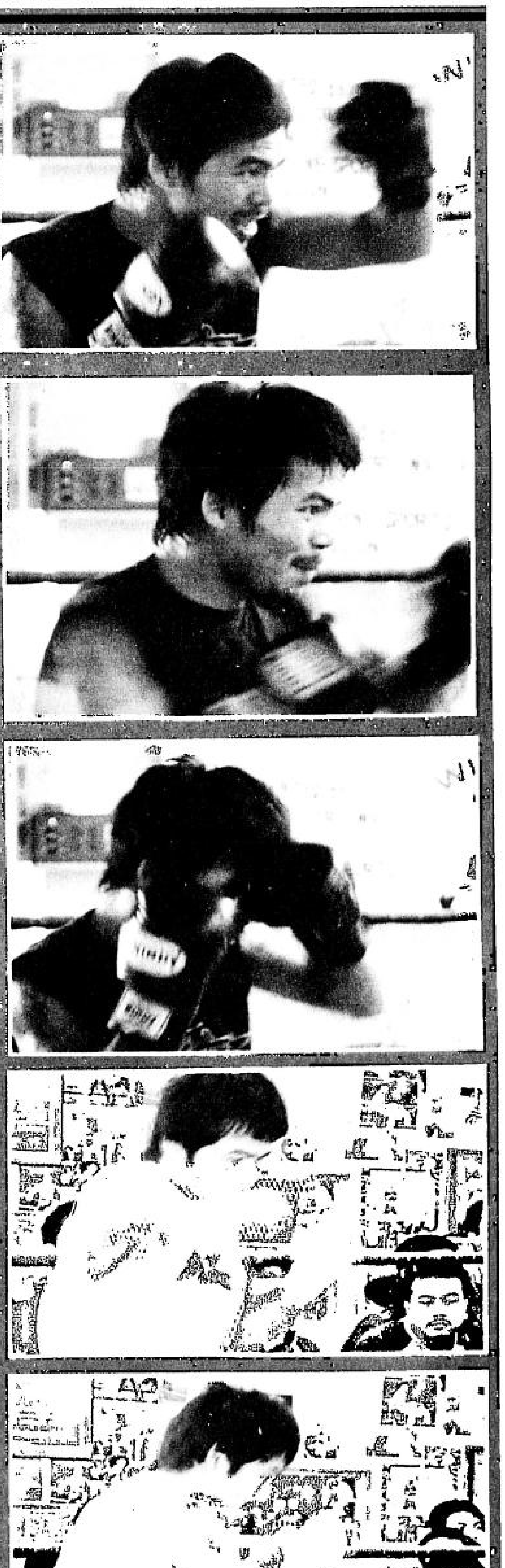
But there are boxing writers, some of them former boxers like Fernandez, who have a different take on the fight, or on what it takes to win it.

About the only thing the experts agree on is this: the fight is shaping up to be a classic.



BLINDING SEQUENCES: InqTV video grabs (right) show Manny's incomparable hand speed; Roach (above) and ex-heavyweight Justin Fortune (below) condition the fighter's mind and mid-section.





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Pacquiao's Wild Card advantage

Freddie Roach's championship gym adds technique and discipline to boxer's power and speed

By John Nery, Executive Producer, InqTV

YOU COULD say the whole point is to live up to the gym's name.

A wild card, of course, is American slang for something unpredictable, an unforeseeable factor. That makes Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, in Hollywood, the perfect place to train Manny Pacquiao. You could say the million-dollar boxer's "longest training camp" was designed to make him less predictable.

After beating the first of the Mexican trinity of boxing icons, Marco Antonio Barrera, into submission, Pacquiao showed his limitations when he drew with the second, Juan Manuel Marquez. He had famously knocked Marquez down three times in the first round with his thundering left cross; but success with his most potent weapon made him forget everything else in his armory.

That night last May, to hear the laidback Roach say it, "he got kinda happy with the left hand."

After getting his bearings in the first two rounds, Marquez figured out how and when to avoid Pacquiao's left, or at least contain the damage. After the controversial draw, some boxing experts immediately said the Marquez match proved that Pacquiao was a one-dimensional fighter. Rather memorably, one boxing writer said Pacquiao showed up at the MGM Grand Arena without a Plan B.

So you could say that the whole point of his eight-week training, in preparation for today's fight against the third person of the Mexican trinity, Erik Morales, was precisely to furnish him with Plan B, and perhaps C and D and E as well.

"I'm just making Manny a more complete fighter," Roach told the INQUIRER and InqTV last month, in his cramped office inside Wild Card.

The smell of sweat

Wild Card, located at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Vine Street, in the heart of Hollywood, is a small, simple, four-walls-and-a-ring affair. It sits on top of a Laundromat; you enter through a solitary door at the back.

When you walk in, you immediately smell the faint scent of sweat. Even on Sundays, when the gym is technically closed, you can smell it. (Technically, because some die-hards continue to show up, and some of the trainers live in the gym.) The windows are never opened. "Everybody's trying to make weight," one of its seven trainers once said.

As you walk in, there is a workaday counter to your left. That's where much of the business part of the gym is conducted: ex-heavyweight Justine Fortune advising a gym regular, ex-featherweight Pepper Roach (the coach's brother) answering the occasional phone call, ex-light heavyweight Maka Foley collecting the dues.

(The rates are $50 a month, or "$5 a day if you come once a week," in Pepper's words. The dues allow you to use the gym, but to hire the services of a trainer you need to pay them by the hour. Some charge $50 an hour, others $25, still others $10.)

In the center of the gym is a standard Everlast ring. Gym bags and duffel bags line one side of it.

There is a treadmill, a couple of double-end bags, three speed bags, four punching bags.

The walls are plastered with boxing pictures, fight bills, posters of famous boxers. In the middle of the gym, along one side of the ring, is a black-and-white picture of a young Muhammad Ali. It looks to all the world like an icon on a boxing altar.

Across the gym from this picture, on the outside wall of Roach's cramped office, is another picture of Ali, no longer young. He is inside a ring, giving pointers to his daughter Laila, who of course took up the unforgiving sport after him. It takes some time before your eyes adjust, and then you realize that the picture was taken in Wild Card.

Roach has said in more than one interview that Ali's visit was the happiest day of his life. Coming from a man who was inducted into the Boxing Hall of Fame for training numerous world champions, starting with his first one, four-time champion Virgil Hill, and including James Toney and Mike Tyson, this is saying something.

Working the mitts

Like his two brothers Pepper and Joey and his father Paul, Roach fought as a featherweight, but a knee injury stopped him cold. Today he walks with a limp, but if you only saw him inside the ring, working the punch mitts, and unless you knew about it beforehand, you wouldn't know his knees had betrayed him.

When Pacquiao is in training, he follows Roach's regular schedule: sparring sessions three times a week, and punch mitts on alternate days.

One session started with Pacquiao rattling off with a series of right hooks, seven or eight of them, in quick succession.

They then quickly settle into a routine, trying or practicing certain sequences. Two right jabs, a left cross, then a right hook. A right jab, a left hook, a right hook, then a right to the side. Two right jabs, then a left hook.

Pacquiao punctuates the sequences with his own sound effects. A one-two combination: "pak, boom!" Two rights then a left hook: "pak, pak, boom!" A prolonged sequence: "uhm, uhm, uhm," then, "boom!"

(At one point, bothered by the headband he was wearing, he takes it off and throws it across the ring.)

Roach, who has taken off his eyeglasses, is all business. "One-two," he calls out. Or "Four," meaning two right jabs, a left hook, then a right. "Again." And then "Again." He grunts instructions or encouragement. "Good." "In." "Under.'

Working with the mitts, Pacquiao and Roach talk all the time. In another session, for instance, Pacquiao stops in the middle of a round and looks up at Roach. "Sometimes," he says, outlining a right cross to the body, "but sometimes," he continues, exaggerating a right hook. His trainer nods. Good. Okay.

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He's making the right moves

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They're not just sparring partners

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We vary his day

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The hands have eyes

[illegible]

They are all individuals

[illegible]

You gotta suck it up

[illegible]

Experts clashing

[illegible]

Ringtalk

[illegible]

BLINDING SEQUENCES: InqTV video grabs (right) show Manny's incomparable hand speed; Roach (above) and ex-heavyweight Justine Fortune (below) condition the fighter's mind and [illegible].

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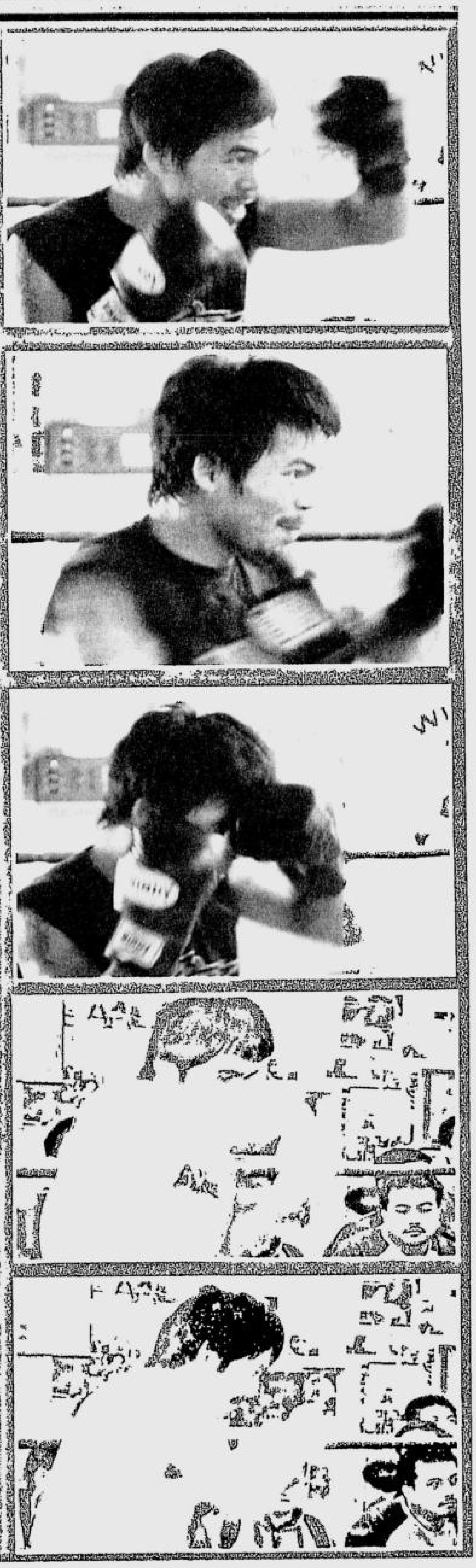
EXPOSITION



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Tale of the Tape

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PacMan / The Destroyer	NICKNAME	El Teribile
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12-17-78	DATE OF BIRTH	09-01-76
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Southpaw	STANCE	Orthodox
Freddie Roach	TRAINER	Jose Morales
39	WON	47
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30	KOs	34

'Win or lose, he's our Manny'

TWO DAYS before the Morales-Pacquiao fight, we circulated an e-mail around the Inquirer offices asking the recipients one question: "*Manalo o matalo, ano sa palagay niyo ang nakamit na ni Manny Pacquiao para sa Pilipino?* (Win or lose, what in your opinion has Manny Pacquiao already achieved for the Filipino?)"

Here are their replies:

"*Naging karangalan na siya ng ating bansa. Malinis ang kanyang pagkatao at tuwing mananalo siya hindi nya nakakalimot magpasalamat sa Diyos. Mabuhay ka Pacquiao.*"

–Elena de los Reyes, senior account manager

"Manny has already proven what Filipino athletes are made of. It also means that in sports, all are equal, regardless of where they came from."

–Lilie Lazaro, yuppie

"*Manalo o matalo, nakamit na ni Manny ang tagumpay para sa Pilipino. Gaya ni Flash Elorde, si Manny ay bahagi na ng buhay ng bawat Pilipino, bata man o matanda.*"

–Jimmy Ramos, manager

"*Manalo, matalo, cute pa rin siya!!!* :-) *Maituturing na siyang institusyon sa larangan ng isports sa bansa at national pride ng mga Pilipino. Ang karangalan na naibigay nya sa Pilipinas ay isang bagay na nagbibigay inspirasyon hindi lamang sa mga kabataang atleta na umiidolo sa kanya ngunit maging sa bawat Pinoy sa buong mundo.*"

–Izelle Medina, account manager

"He put the Filipino on the map. *Pag nababasa ko yung* news quoting people abroad, *parang sikat na sikat siya.* So that's one more field where Pinoys excel aside from singing—not to mention it balances out (I hope!) all that news about our making it to the corruption list and the mass poisoning of schoolchildren, etc. He does us proud."

–Pennie de la Cruz, veteran journalist

"Among our boxers today, I think it's only Manny who's carrying such honor and popularity worldwide and he is so loved by millions all over the world, even by non-Filipinos."

–Gina Layague, advertising officer

"*Manalo o matalo, iba't-ibang boxing magazines na ang nag-bansag sa kanyang* People's Champion. *Malalaking pangalan sa boxing na ang tinumbanya.* He's a 'made man' already."

–Kenny Nuyda, assistant vice president

"He has won for the Filipinos a sense of pride. He is the epitome of the brown race's struggle for recognition."

–James Mananghaya, photojournalist

"We should not look at the victory of one person alone. It doesn't end there. We should be who we really are and attain the true victory of being Filipinos proud of being who and what we are, be it positive or negative, at all times, wherever we are, and not only when someone (like Pacquiao) has made us proud to be such a people."

–Alizza Butiong, artist

"Manny Pacquiao has caused enough ripples to make the world's giants stand up, take notice and bow down to him. We love you Manny!"

–Marela Lucero, yuppie

Manny Pacquiao embodies the Filipino dream.

–Beth Andres, secretary

"If it has to be Manny (who loses) *siguro ok lang, madaming beses na naman nyang napatunayan na magaling siya. Siguro pag natalo siya,* it's just because it's Morales' day *lang* and not his, *pero* Manny will stay the champion that he is."

–Anna Pineda, sales officer

"*Nakakuha na siya ng malaking atensyon mula sa buong daigdig.*"

– Eric Salazar, sales account manager

"*Karangalan!*"

–Liway Tabaranza, manager

"*Kasikatan at pag-asa dahil kahit siya ay mababang tao, malaki ang nagagawa niya para sa atin.*"

–Jhonna Gatdula, sales officer

"*Ang mga Pinoy ay magaling sa suntukan. Pero kay Morales ako pumusta kasi naunahan na ako ng kapustahan ko kay Pacquiao.*"

–Normandy de la Paz, writer

'Buboy Roach': Pacquiao's secret weapon is his closest friend

ONCE, the Inquirer caught a slam-bang sparring session in Wild Card Gym between Gerry Balagbagan, Manny Pacquiao's running partner, and a young Armenian boxer, Vanes Martirosyan.

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HAND-WRAPS. Buboy Fernandez helps Manny Pacquiao apply boxing tape.

As Balagbagan and Martirosyan mixed it up, Fernandez shouted advice non-stop. "*Pag-jab niya, pumasok ka na!* (When he jabs, come in right away)." "*Pasok! Pasok!*" He was talking a mile a minute. Across the ring, Roach stood absolutely silent.

Unlikely as it seems, the low-key Roach and the expansive Fernandez make for a good team. When Pacquiao spars, they are both in his corner. And when Roach gives instructions, he gives them to Fernandez, who then relays it, in Filipino, to the man the American boxing press has taken to calling Pac-Man.

"I talk to Buboy so he tells Manny in Filipino because he understands that language much better than English, even though [Manny] understands me, of course," Roach told the INQUIRER and InqTV last month. "But the thing is, Buboy can translate it and the sparring partners, they don't really know what we're up to."

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One Fans' Day, when the champion was being pressed on all sides by admirers and autograph-seekers, Pacquiao called on the one guy who can bring order to the familiar chaos and give him the necessary breathing room. "Buboy!" Pacquiao called out, and the crowd around him took up the call. "Buboy!" everyone shouted. "Buboy!"

Buboy Roach made his way through and created room for his friend. - *J. Nery*

Manny Pacquiao, 'empowered' fighter

EVER wonder what it takes to sustain a powerful world champion such as Manny Pacquiao? Since he was young, the world-renowned Filipino boxer has supplemented his rigorous physical training with natural sources of vitamins and nutrients in the form of herbs. Now Manny has discovered Moreishi Power Drink to boost his intense physical demands and mental preparation.

Moreishi Power Drink is a combination of orange juice and 5 premium herbs and extracts to produce a powerful synergistic combination that enhances the body to perform in peak condition. It contains Reishi (Ganoderma), Ginger, Tienchi Ginseng, along with beehive extracts Royal Jelly and Bee Propolis.

Moreishi Power Drink is distributed nationwide through the efforts of Empower, a 100% Filipino networking company founded by the husband-and-wife team of Antonio and Josefina Elicaño of the Peak Marketing Group. Empower products offers consumers a healthy lifestyle as well as superb income opportunities and high quality products backed by medical experts as well as a formidable marketing package. For more inquiries, call (02)5346843 or 5328059.

EMPOWER
A Division

Welcome to EMPOWER Family
"THE PACMAN"
Manny Paquiao

EMPOWER celebrates as Manny Pacquiao joins the Empower family. At the contract signing were, (from left to right) Marilou DelaCruz (VP Sales), Josephine G. Elicaño (SVP), Mrs. Josefina Elicaño (President & COO), Manny Pacquiao, Jinkee Pacquiao, and Buboy Fernandez.

MANNY Pacquiao has discovered Moreishi Power Drink to boost his intense physical demands and mental preparation. Made of orange juice and natural herbs and beehive extracts, Moreishi Power Drink is a powerful supplement to keep him in prime fighting condition. It is distributed nationwide by Empower with contact nos. (02)5346843 or 5328059.

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Moreishi
#81 EDSA, 2nd Floor ROSCAR Bldg., Mandaluyong City Tel. No.: (02) 5346843 / 5328059

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Here [illegible] replies:

[illegible] karangalan na iyan [illegible] bansa. Malinis [illegible] kanyang pakikilaban [illegible] [illegible] nya naka [illegible]. Diyos Mabuhay [illegible]

– Elaine de los Reyes, senior account manager

Manny [illegible] to prove [illegible] Filipino [illegible] can [illegible] equal, regardless of where [illegible] from!

– [illegible]

Manalo o matalo, nakamit [illegible] Manny ang tagumpay para sa Pilipino. Gaya ni Flash Elorde, [illegible] Manny [illegible] buhay ng bawat Pilipino, bata man o matanda.

– Jimmy Ramo, manager

Manalo, matalo, [illegible] Malaking [illegible] yang [illegible] sa larangan ng isports sa bansa at national pride ng mga Pilipino. Ang karangalan na nabibigay [illegible] Pilipinas ay isang bagay na nagbibigay inspirasyon hindi lamang sa mga kabataang [illegible] kanya ngunit maging [illegible] Pinoy sa buong mundo.

– Izelle Medina, account manager

He put the Filipino [illegible] map. [illegible] nababasa ko yung [illegible] people abroad, parang [illegible]. So that's one more field where Pinoys excel aside from singing. Not to mention it balances out (I hope) all that news about our making it to the corruption list and the mass poisoning of school children... He does us proud.

– Pennie de la Cruz, [illegible] journalist

Among our [illegible], I think it's only Manny who [illegible] honor and popularity worldwide and he [illegible] loved by million all over the world, even by non-Filipinos.

– [illegible]

Manalo o matalo, [illegible] boxing [illegible] kanyang [illegible] people's champion. [illegible] He made [illegible] already.

– Kenny [illegible]

He [illegible] Filipino [illegible] brown [illegible]

– [illegible], photojournalist

We should not [illegible] the victory of one person. [illegible] We should be who we really are and attain the true victory of being Filipinos, proud of being who and what we are, be it positive or negative, at all times, wherever we are, and not only when someone (like Pacquiao) has made us proud to be such a people.

– Alizza Bution, [illegible]

Manny Pacquiao [illegible] enough [illegible] boxing [illegible] We [illegible]

– [illegible]

Manny Pacquiao [illegible] Filipino dream.

– [illegible]

[illegible] Manny [illegible] *namang [illegible] Sigurado [illegible]* Morales [illegible] Manny will [illegible] champion [illegible]

– [illegible]

Nakakabilib [illegible] milk [illegible]

– [illegible] manager

Karangalan!

– [illegible], manager

[illegible] sa [illegible] Morales [illegible] kapurihan [illegible] kay Pacquiao.

– Normandy de la Paz, writer

Manny Pacquiao, 'empowered' fighter

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EMPOWER celebrates as Manny Pacquiao joins the Empower family. At the contract signing were, (from left to right) Marilou DelaCruz (VP Sales), Josephine G. Elicaño (SVP), Mrs. Josefina Elicaño (President & COO), Manny Pacquiao, Jinkee Pacquiao, and Buboy Fernandez.

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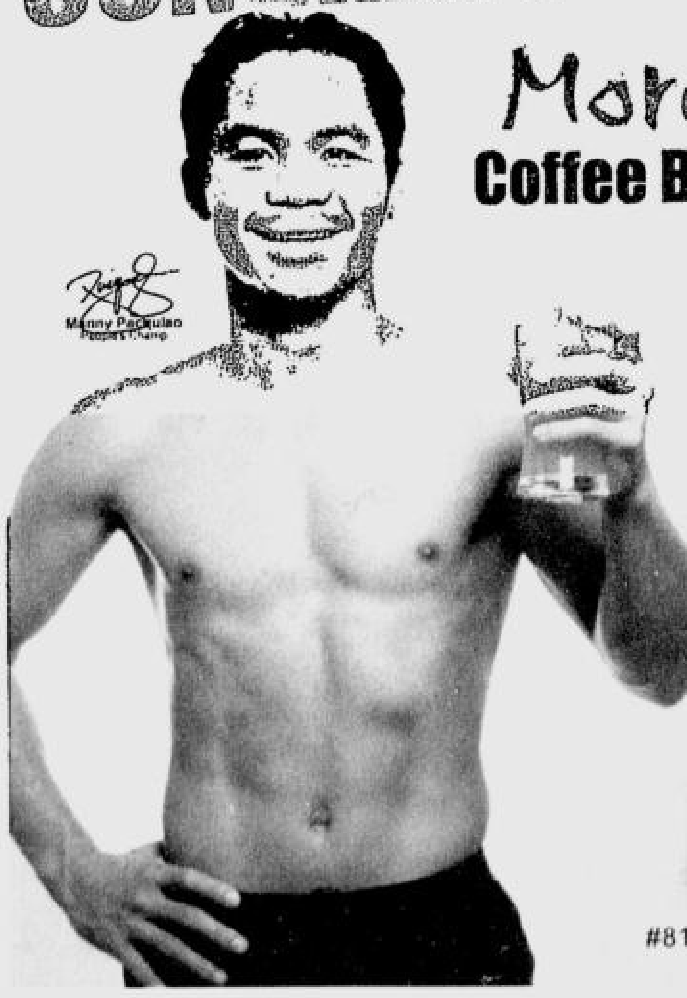

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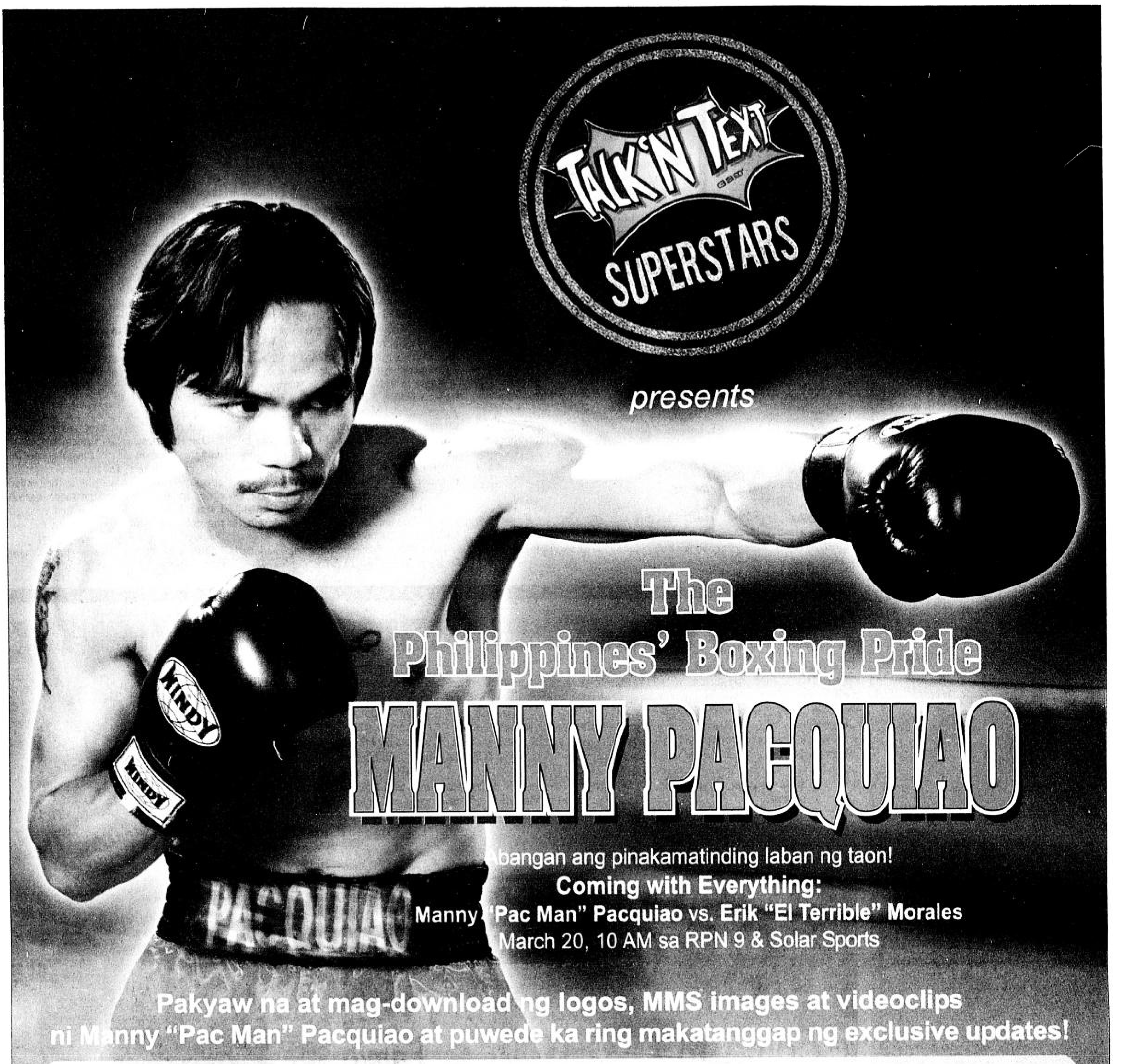

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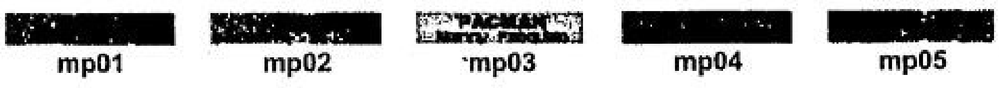

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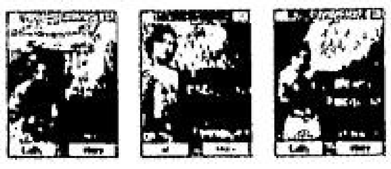

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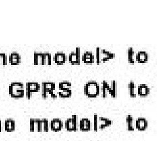

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1. contributing to the preparation of financial statements, accounting and other reports, as required, under the supervision of a senior support staff; assisting in ensuring that accounting reports are prepared in accordance with applicable generally accepted accounting principles;
2. reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability if systems; initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with the IT department through the coordinating officer in charge;
3. maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and in preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as requred to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting;
4. reconciling various general ledger accounts and analyzing and investigating discrepancies for review by supervising staff;
5. processing transactions through preparing appropriate accounting journal entries/vouchers and compiling relevant supporting documents; reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices and guidelines;
6. coordinating, obtaining, and providing required information in accordance with established procedures in a tactful manner; and
7. performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Selection Criteria
- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
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- Detailed understanding of the relevant procedures and guidelines and their importance in the overall function of the work area;
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- Good understanding of basic general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof;
- Proficiency with computer software in common use at large institutions and specialized Accounting related software;
- Proficiency in the use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate reports;
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Lantaka
DISTRIBUTORS CORPORATION

A fast growing and dynamic Marketing and Distribution Co. of Hospital & Pharmaceutical Products is in need of

Medical Sales Specialist (MSS), Accounting Clerk (AC) and Pharmacist (PHR)

Qualification:

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- College Graduate, 1)MSS–Preferably Medical related course, 2)AC–Accounting major, w/ experience in all accounting related task, 3)PHR–familiar w/ BFAD Regulatory Affairs
- Can communicate effectively, w/ pleasing personality and desire to grow w/ the company

Interested applicants may personally submit their letter of application and comprehensive resume on March 21-23 starting at 9:00am-3:00pm at Unit 228 Cityland 9 Dela Rosa Condominium, 7648 Dela Rosa Street, Makati City.

SILVERGATE GROUP OF COMPANIES
219 Wilson St. San Juan, Manila Tel.7238832

We urgently need the following positions:

Assistant Branch Officer

- College graduate of any 4 year course
- At least 21 – 27 yrs old.
- Willing to work under pressure.
- Can work with minimal supervision.
- Computer literate on software and hardware.
- Have an interpersonal conversational skill.
- With good customer service orientation.

Computer Technician

- Graduate of 2 year vocational or 4 yr course preferably computer related courses.
- At least 21 - 27 yrs old.
- Can work with minimal supervision.
- Have an experience in customer service oriented establishment
- Knowledgeable in assembling and, troubleshooting PC software and hardware

Electronic Technician

- Graduate of 2 year Electronic vocational course
- At least 21 - 27 yrs old.
- Have an experience in customer service oriented establishment
- Knowledgeable in repairing and troubleshooting game console.

Interested applicants may personally submit their resumé with 2x2 colored picture together with your credentials at No: 219 Wilson St., San Juan, Manila on Monday to Thursday at 1 PM or E-mail your resumé at fpisilvergate@yahoo.com

Loyola Plans Consolidated Inc. is expanding its Sales & Marketing operations nationwide.

You are invited to **EARN**

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TRAVEL abroad twice a year for FREE

Lakbay Loyola

Positions available are:

- ➡ **Group Sales Managers**
- ➡ **Sales Managers**
- ➡ **Planning Executives**

Apply in person and bring or send your resume to the following regional offices:

NCR CLUSTER

Makati Office
Ofelia G. Jacinto, Exec. Sales Director
Unit 24 2/F The Colonade
132 Legaspi cor. C. Palanca Sts.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
☎ 813-1055. 892-0411. 817-6184. 817-6418
✉ ogjacinto@loyolaplans.com

Manila Office
Lorenzo A. Mata, Jr., Sales & Marketing Dir.
1971 G/F Mark I Bldg. Taft Ave., Malate, Manila
☎ 526-0365. 522-2803 to 06
✉ lamata@loyolaplans.com

Pasig Office
Rommel C. Ostil, Sales & Marketing Dir.
G/F Karina Bldg. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
☎ 634-6824. 634-6859. 634-8193
✉ rcostil@loyolaplans.com

Taguig Office
Fil Q. Moreno, Sales & Marketing Dir.
3rd flr. LPI Bldg. 849 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
☎ 813-3714. 8926061 to 65 local 306
✉ fqmoreno@loyolaplans.com

QC Office

Tomas Morato Office
Welhelm TS. Castroverde, Sales & Marketing Dir.
74 Tomas Morato Creek Side Square, Quezon City
☎ 722-8171. 722-4932. 721-2107. 721-2057. 727-4535
✉ wtscastroverde@loyolaplans.com

Orsel Office
Teresita C. Yu, Sales & Marketing Dir.
5/F Orsel II Bldg., 1511 Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City
☎ 924-2844
✉ tcyu@loyolaplans.com

NORTH LUZON CLUSTER

Dagupan Office
Rubio D. Bugarin, Exec. Sales Director
LPCI Bldg., Mayombo District, Dagupan City
☎ (075) 515-5135. 523-4295. 522-7566
✉ rdbugarin@loyolaplans.com

Cagayan Valley Office
Antonio P. Buza, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPI Bldg. 34 Camacam St., Centro East
Santiago City, Cagayan Valley
☎ (078) 682-7981. 682-8356
✉ apbuza@loyolaplans.com

San Fernando Office
Vicente R. Tuason III, Sales & Marketing Dir.
2/F Ascorp Bldg., McArthur Highway
Dolores, San Fernando City, Pampanga
☎ (045) 961-8210 to 11
✉ vvrtuason@loyolaplans.com

SOUTH LUZON CLUSTER

Lucena Office
Samuel G. Moreno, Exec. Sales Director
5/F QCRB Corporate Tower
Granja cor. JP. Rizal Sts., Lucena City
☎ (042) 373-5870. 373-3420
✉ sgmoreno@loyolaplans.com

Bicol Office
Emmanuel M. Ladines, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPI Bldg., 873 Rizal St., Old Albay, Legaspi City
☎ (052) 480-5886. 820-6277. 820-6227
✉ emladines@loyolaplans.com

Alabang Office
Karl Marc A. Co, Sales & Marketing Dir.
Rm. 1203-1204 Alabang Business Tower I
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City
☎ 809-1359 to 60
✉ kmaco@loyolaplans.com

Bacoor Office
Dante J. Almazar, Sales & Marketing Dir.
Legaspi Motor and Welding Works, Panapaan,
Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite
☎ (046) 417-3727
✉ djalmazar@loyolaplans.com

VISAYAS CLUSTER

Lapu-Lapu Office
Samuel E. Abugho, Exec. Sales Director
3/F GSO Bldg., Quezon National Hi-way
Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
☎ (032) 340-5912 to 14
✉ seabugho@loyolaplans.com

Bacolod Office
Josef D. Nava Jr., Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPI Bldg., Hilado-Malaspina Sts.,
Shopping Area, Bacolod City
☎ (034) 433-4864. 434-5384. 434-1261
✉ jdnava@loyolaplans.com

Tacloban City Office
Sherwin D. Olimpo, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPCI Bldg., 117 P. Burgos St., Tacloban City
☎ (053) 321-4787. 321-2100
✉ sdolimpo@loyolaplans.com

MINDANAO CLUSTER

Cebu City Office
Nelson T. Paglinawan, Exec. Sales Director
4/F Cebu Holdings Center
Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
☎ (032) 231-5566 to 68
✉ ntpaglinawan@loyolaplans.com

Cagayan Office
Nador J. Nacua, Sales & Marketing Dir.
3/F Marel II Bldg.,Tiano-Gomez St.,
Cagayan de Oro City
☎ (08822) 729-512. 857-5605. 728-126
✉ njnacua@loyolaplans.com

Davao City
Michael M. Ramos, Sales & Marketing Dir.
LPCI Bldg., 1011 Mt. Apo St., Davao City
☎ (082) 227-4243. 227-4337. 224-1867
✉ mmramos@loyolaplans.com

HEAD OFFICE:
7/F Office of the SVP-Strategic Sales Div.
LPI Bldg., 849 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
☎ 812-3406. 840-4570
✉ nrbdelrosario@loyolaplans.com

for inquiries:
text @ 0920-9LOYOLA
(569652)

Loyola
LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

A small but ambitious international financial firm based in the Ortigas financial district engaged in financial advisory work is seeking for a

MARKETING SPECIALIST/ANALYST

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Female or male
- ✓ At least 28 years old
- ✓ BA diploma in any one or more (business administration/ marketing / finance)
- ✓ At least 5 years experience in a marketing and/or financial environment
- ✓ Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- ✓ Good mathematical skills is an advantage
- ✓ Salary level shall be based upon the "quality" of experience and acquired skills of the candidate.

The above-mentioned position requires a person with "unquestionable integrity". Anybody who may have any doubt on this issue, may please "abstain" from applying.

ONLY those who comply closest to the aforementioned requirements shall be considered for short-listing

Please send your "detailed" curriculum vitae with at least five (5) references and a 2x2 recent colored picture to:

ALL WORLD INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Suite 910, West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center
Pasig City 1600

E-mail: hr@allworldinvestments.net

Attention: Vice-President for Marketing

Last Date of submission: MARCH 31 ,2005 (THURSDAY)

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Quezon City	Makati	Alabang	Fairview
305 Katipunan Ave. Loyola Hts, Q. C. Tel 435-6062 925-4602	101 Esteban corner Dela Rosa, Makati Tel 815-1307 893-3326	South Center Tower, Madrigal Business Park Tel 850-6550/51	SM City Fairview Tel 935-0011/12

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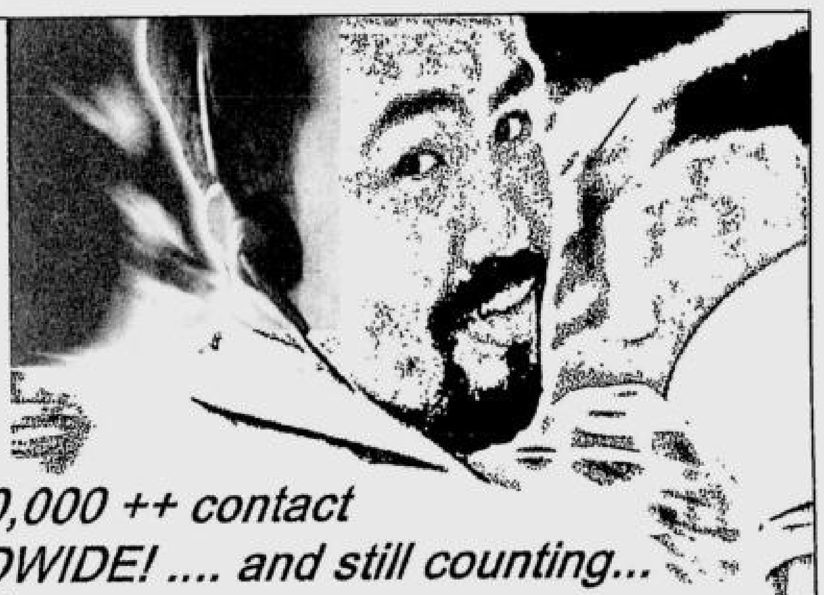
the TOUGHEST among the REST!



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Team Leaders
Accounting Assistant
Senior Line Manager
Foreign Language Specialist
(German,French, Italian, Spanish,Portuguese)

FOR BAGUIO:
Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives
Team Leaders
Site Support Supervisor
Company Nurse

Bring your resume w/ 2x2 picture,
SSS & TIN nos.

JOBFAIRS:

PASIG:
Mon to Wed (9am-3pm) March 21 - 23
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Wed (9am-5pm) March 21 - 23
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

CLIENTLOGIC
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

GULF EXPRESS CORPORATION

GULF EXPRESS CORPORATION, General Sales Agent of GULF AIR, is in immediate need of dynamic and highly motivated individuals to fill up the following positions:

CORPORATE SALES EXECUTIVE
(Manila & Cebu)
- Graduate of Communication Arts or any Business Course
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, Outlook Express)
- At least 20 – 28 years old
- Pleasing personality with a very good command in written and spoken English.
- Sales experience is preferred

RESERVATIONS & TICKETING ASSOCIATES
(Manila & Cebu)
- Graduate of Tourism preferably from reputable institution.
- Pleasing personality with a very good command in written and spoken English.
- Knowledgeable in Amadeus / Sabre System
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, Outlook Express)
- Willing to work on Saturdays and Holiday shifts

CASHIER / ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE
- Graduate of Business /Accounting Course
- Accounting graduate with related work experience will be given preference
- At least 20 - 25 years old
- Pleasing personality with a good command in written and spoken English
- Must possess high principles and integrity
- Willing to work on Saturdays and Holiday shifts
- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, and Outlook Express)

SECRETARY (Cebu)
- Graduate of any four year-degree course
- Proficient in Windows applications – MS Word, Excel, Outlook Express
- Experience in general office management is an advantage
- Pleasing personality with a good command in written and spoken English

Qualified applicants may submit their letter of intent and comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 colored photo, Transcript of Records, NBI clearance to the address below or send to e-mail address: **mia.acuna@gulfexpress.com.ph** or **acunamia@yahoo.com**

GULF EXPRESS CORPORATION
G/F Don Chua Lamko Bldg., 100 Leviste Cor. H. V. de la Costa Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227

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5 Anvil Awards and 2 Gold Quill Awards in the last 4 years!

An advertising firm? A public relations outfit? A media company? Not quite. But a group that is just as creative, dynamic and innovative!

Join the Marketing and Communications team of SGV & Co., the largest professional services firm in the Philippines.

We are accepting applications for:

One (1) Editor/Writer (Supervisory Level) with:
- College degree in Communications, Journalism or English
- At least 5 years of experience in corporate communications, publications and website management (at least 2 years as a supervisor)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Adeptness at Microsoft applications
- Facility in translating jargon and complex material into plain English
- Familiarity with English grammar rules
- Interest in business and industry issues
- Passion for reading
- Willingness for and interest in lifelong learning
- Strong mentoring and team-building skills

One (1) Editor/Writer (Entry Level) with:
- College degree in Communications, Journalism or English
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Proficiency in Microsoft applications
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Ability to multitask
- Willingness to learn editing and writing processes
- Patience for detailed work like proofreading, fact checking and the like

Competitive compensation, benefits, world-class training and professional growth await successful applicants. To apply, e-mail your resume to sgvhrd@ph.ey.com or mail to:

Human Resources Group
3F, SGV 1 Bldg., 6760 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

CHAUFFEUR

Incumbent will operate various vehicles to transport personnel to various points throughout the country. Must possess professional driver's license and be able to operate both manual and automatic transmission vehicles. Familiarity with Metro Manila streets essential.

Qualifications: Must have completed high school. At least three (3) years professional driving experience, preferably with a government or industrial/commercial establishment. Must have driver's license restriction code 2,3 and 4 (attach a copy of your license). Must be familiar with locations of important offices, streets in Metro Manila and suburbs. Must be able to pass full physical including eye and hearing. Must have strong interpersonal and teamwork skills.

Compensation: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN MARCH 25, 2005

Send letter of application with comprehensive resumé to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

THE OUTLET PEOPLE   women

THE OUTLET PEOPLE INC., the retail group that specializes in the distribution of Nike concept stores - such as **Nike Women, Nike Forum,** and **The Outlet Stores,** is in **URGENT NEED** of dynamic and highly motivated individuals to fill up the following positions:

OPERATIONS MANAGER
- Shall be responsible for the overall store operation of all outlets. This includes sales & marketing, staff supervision, monitoring of stocks inventory, store maintenance and business development
- Must be customer–oriented, highly motivated, must have very good time management
- Excellent in both written and spoken English
- Proficient in computer literacy
- Experience in the retail industry is an advantage
- Graduate of any Business or related course, between 25 – 35 years old

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS STAFF
- Graduate of Computer Science or Information Technology
- Knowledgeable in project management, system analysis and design, database management. Knowledge in Chase Technologies POS Software is an advantage.
- Must be hardworking, highly motivated and willing to extend working hours
- At least 20 – 28 years old

STORE SUPERVISORS
- Shall be responsible for the outlet/store operation, sales, and staff supervision.
- An experience in the retail industry in an advantage.
- Pleasing personality with a good command in written and spoken English
- Must possess high principles and integrity
- Willing to work on Weekends and Holidays
- Must be knowledgeable in basic computer operations.

SALES ASSOCIATES
- At least college level, between 18 - 25 years old
- Must possess a pleasing personality, with an active lifestyle reflective of the Nike brand
- Must possess a good command of written and spoken English
- Must be knowledgeable in basic computer operations
- Willing to work on Weekends and Holidays

Qualified applicants may submit their letter of intent and comprehensive resume with 2 x 2 colored photo, Transcript of Records, NBI clearance to the address below or send to e-mail address : **mia.acuna@gulfexpress.com.ph** or **acunamia@yahoo.com**

THE OUTLET PEOPLE,INC.
OUR OFFICES Building, 157 EDSA Corner Berkeley St.,
Mandaluyong City

DODGE   CHRYSLER   Jeep

SALES MANAGER

- Male/Female, between 25 to 40 years old.
- Must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma/ Masters Degree in Business Studies/ Administration/Management, Economics, Sales & Marketing, Finance/Accountancy/ Banking, Commerce or equivalent.
- Excellent communication, presentation and interpersonal skills.
- At least 5 years working experience in the related filed is required for the position with an outstanding background in sales development and sales training in the automotive industry.

DEALER DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

- Male/Female, not over 40 years old.
- Bachelor's/College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma/ Masters Degree in Business Studies/ Administration/Management/ Marketing or equivalent.
- With 3 years administrative and sales training experience preferably in the Automotive Industry.
- Must be highly organize and keen in details to handle conceptualization, dissemination and implementation of dealership development programs and practices with adherence to Retail Operating System

Due to urgency of the requirements please apply personally with a copy of your resume and latest picture, during office hours between 9:30 am to 5:30 pm from Monday through Friday or e-mail it at catshrd@cats.com.ph.

CATS

Human Resources Department
1008 EDSA, Greenhills, San Juan 1502, Metro Manila
Phone 723-5808 to 12   Fax: 726-7741

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KONICA MINOLTA DIMAGE   CASIO EXILIM   Nikon   HITACHI Inspire the Next

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

CAMERA SERVICE MANAGER
- Male/female; 25-35 years old
- Graduate of management or engineering course
- Efficient and organized under pressure
- Able to submit reports in Excel or Word format
- Hardworking and customer-oriented
- With pleasing personality and must have good command of the English language
- With related experience an advantage

CAMERA SERVICE TECHNICIANS
- Male; 22-35 years old
- Graduate/undergraduate of any engineering or computer course
- Can work under pressure
- Willing to travel
- Knowledge in computer operations is a must
- Experience in camera servicing (film or digital) will be a great advantage

CUSTOMER SERVICE STAFF/TECHNICAL SUPPORT STAFF
- Female/male; 23-35 years old
- Must have good inter-personal skills; team player
- Must be able to operate the computer efficiently
- Must be able to handle customer complaints smoothly
- Graduate/undergraduate of any business/management related course
- Background in digital photography an advantage
- Willing to travel nationwide

Interested parties may send resumé with 2x2 picture from Mon.-Fri. 1:00 – 4:00 PM only
Look for Joylin, Michelle or Tonette

G. COLUMBIA GLOBAL PHOTO SALES CORP.
135 ROXAS ST., S.F.D.M., QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL # 363-8550; 363-7463/65 loc 604

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jobs@levelupgames.ph

Level Up!, the Philippines' premier online game publisher is on the search for the country's next big IT and marketing talents. We are preparing to launch the next big thing: Rose Online, from the developers of Ragnarok Online.

If you're bright and ambitious, we want to meet you!

Content Coordinator (Korean Translator) — with good IT background, an equally important aspect of the job is helping the company build and maintain good relationships with our Korean partners.

Community Manager — Job will conceptualize in-game events and promos for the playing community while at the same time helping Marketing disseminate information and marketing programs to the players. A wild and creative imagination is needed for this exciting job as well as a genuine love and passion for the game.

Community Game Masters — Although some think of it, being Game Master is not a walk in the park. One must be professional, a game expert, a big brother, customer centric and facilitator all at the same time. Like in-game headgear, a GM has many hats to wear.

Gameplay Specialists — Job will ensure that the integrity of the game is maintained through proper balancing of game economics and game play, among his other game-related functions.

Graphic Artists — Job will create layout/designs. Computer education background or Fine Arts education background (a "plus" but not totally required). Web experience plus. Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop. Must be able to work with tight deadlines and multi-task. Creative. Knowledge of the MMORPG preferred.

Senior Applications Developer — Job will lead the Applications Development Team in the development, maintenance and enhancement of applications and systems required by the company in support of business goals. Extensive experience in developing applications using ASP.NET, HTML, JavaScript, PHP. Proficient in database programming/analysis using MS SQL server.

Marketing Coordinator (For Luzon) — Being the brand advocate in the assigned area, job is to see that all marketing programs are implemented, organized and properly monitored. Someone who wants to travel, can work with minimal supervision and has good "people-skills" will certainly have the edge!

Application deadline: March 31, 2005

To apply, e-mail resumes to jobs@levelupgames.ph with the position applied for written in the subject field or visit us at the Level Up! Head office at the:

8/F Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
cor. Makati Ave., Makati City, 1200

Level Up!
levelupgames.ph

PHILIPPINE TATLER

The Philippine Tatler, Manila's Premiere Lifestyle & Society Magazine is looking for the following personnel:

ACCOUNT MANAGER
Male or Female, Minimum of three years experience in the field of sales & marketing. Must be goal oriented, pro-active, and a team player. Experience in publication is an advantage.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Graduate of Communication Arts, Journalism or other related course. Must be computer literate, motivated and must possess excellent writing, communication, organizational & interpersonal skills. The ideal candidate will have proven copy editing, production, and planning skills & be able to meet tight deadlines.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
Candidate must be an Accounting graduate, preferably CPA. Computer literate (MS Office Applications). Hardworking & trustworthy and willing to work long hours with at least 4 years of experience. Activities will encompass preparing periodic financial budgets & forecast; compiling cash flow reports; preparing year-end and statutory accounts.

BOOKKEEPER
Candidate must be an Accounting graduate, preferably CPA. Computer literate (MS Office Applications). Hardworking & trustworthy and willing to work long hours with at least 2 years of experience.

Please send full resumé to:
THE PUBLISHER
PHILIPPINE TATLER
Unit 11-A, 11th Floor Manila Bank Building
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

ACCORD CAPITAL
EQUITIES CORPORATION
Member: Philippine Stock Exchange

ACCORD CAPITAL EQUITIES CORP., a full service stock brokerage firm, is inviting candidates for the following position:

THREE (3) RESEARCH ANALYSTS
Graduate of Economics, Statistics of any business course from reputable schools; with background in economic research preferably knowledgeable in technical and fundamental analysis in the local equities market.

ONE (1) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
Graduate of Marketing, Business or any related course.

Can conduct various research works relevant to business expansion and product development in capital market. Able to manage the conceptualization and development of different promotional activities and tools for Sales operations and services

TWO (2) ACCOUNTING & SETTLEMENT ASSISTANTS
Graduate of Accountancy or its equivalent with minimum of 1 year relevant working experience, preferably female with MS Word/Excel literacy. Knowledge in stock brokerage accounting would be an advantage

Interested applicants may personally bring their resume with recent photo to the address below on Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm:

G/F EC-05B East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 687-5071

The **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAMS** and its Sub Sectors through the **PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES** is implementing the *Design and Market Updating Program for Wearables Sector (costume jewelry and bags from natural materials), Holiday Décor and Giftware Sector; and Home Furnishings Sector.* The program requires the services of:

ONE DESIGN AND MARKET EXPERT
To spearhead innovations in product development and adaptation through market intelligence and design information gathering from international sources; provide directions in the preparation of trends presentation materials; upgrade the design information gathering assessment and interpretation skills of PDDCP designers who will collaborate with manufacturers in product development.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS
Must have sufficient international work experience in product development, marketing, and merchandising or related areas on a consultancy level. Sufficient knowledge of dominant and emerging market and design trends for US and Europe. Effective communication skills Must be familiar with Philippine manufactured products and raw materials and its applications

Program will commence as soon as possible. Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification forms from:

The Executive Director
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
PDDCP Building, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard
1300 Pasay City, Philippines
E-mail address: pddcp@dti.gov.ph / pddcp@mozcom.com

dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

If you want your career to go places, join our branch and get ready to reach the top of the corporate ladder.

SAN LAZARO

OPERATIONS GROUP

BRANCH OPERATIONS MANAGER

has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course; with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity; with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills; able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales and Marketing Strategies; has a proven track record in sales and service

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

not over 35 years old; graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead a group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service; with pleasing personality.

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male, must be 5'5 1/2" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work on extended hours

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:

- ✓ excellent communication skills (both verbal and written form)
- ✓ can relate well with all levels of the organization
- ✓ proficient in computer software applications
- ✓ team player, goal oriented and able to work well under pressure
- ✓ willing to grow with the organization
- ✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course; with 2 to 5 years experience in all facets of personnel management in the same capacity such as specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration, recruitment and labor relations; must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization; with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; team-player, goal oriented and able to work under pressure; must be computer literate

TREASURY MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions; familiar with banking operations & Central Bank procedures

ACCOUNTING MANAGER / OFFICER

must be a Certified Public Accountant; female, not over 35 years old; with 2 to 5 years of managerial experience in all accounting operations; has the ability to work in a fast paced environment; with strong computer skills and skills to oversee and manage monthly and quarterly budget and vacancies analysis

ADVERTISING & PROMOTION COORDINATOR

graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in advertising; with good communication and coordinating skills; with high initiative and enable to foster creative solutions to support operations sales; must be computer literate

ENGINEER

• Mechanical • Civil • Electrical
not over 30 years old; preferably licensed; with 1 year work experience in construction projects or mall operations

DESIGN OFFICER

not over 28 years old; graduate of Architecture; preferably licensed; knowledgeable in AutoCADD application; with 1 year work experience in site inspection and supervision; proficient in drafting, designing and estimates

VISUAL DISPLAY OFFICER

graduate of Fine Arts, or any 4-year related course; with at least 1 year related experience in retail, design or fashion is preferred; current knowledge of RTW, Mens' and Home Fashions is a plus; strong organization, planning, and prioritizing skills; flexible to be scheduled in support of retail hours

TRAINING OFFICER / TRAINER

not over 32 years old; graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course; with 2 years related work experience; knowledgeable in conducting training needs analysis, designing, implementing and evaluating of training programs and activities related to behavior and skill modification of employees

NURSE

not over 32 years old; must be a Registered Nurse; with 2 years experience in industrial or hospital setup; able to establish rapport and deal with all levels of the organization; willing to work on shift schedules or extended hours

IT ASSOCIATE

not over 28 years old; graduate of Computer Science / Engineering; with 1 to 2 years experience in repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)
not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; Personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

(Please bring resumé, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number / SSS Employment History printout and photocopy and original copy of Transcript of Records and Diploma)

EduQuest, Inc.

An Affiliate of Asia Pacific College

TEACHERS in Reading, English, Mathematics and Science

- Bachelor's degree or higher with major in Education from a reputable university
- One-year experience in teaching, training or curriculum development is preferred but not required
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer Literate
- High interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated and can work with minimal supervision
- Willing to travel

MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT

- Bachelor's degree major in Marketing or Business Administration
- Relevant experience in sales and accounts management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- High interpersonal skills
- Self-motivated and can work with minimal supervision

Applicants may send their resume with 2 x 2 picture to

Room 509 Asia Pacific College Building
3 Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City
or e-mail applications to info@eq-campus.com

Asia Pacific College is an educational partnership of SM (Shoemart) Foundation and IBM Philippines

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GERMAN LANGUAGE TEACHERS

(Part Time)

DUTIES:
- Teach all levels of German as a Foreign Language
- Substitute for other teachers in case of need
- Attend on-going teacher training seminars

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Very good knowledge of German (ZMP-Level)
- University graduate
- Foreign Language teaching experience

Compensation is based on the Goethe-Institute's existing hourly rate.

Please apply ASAP by e-mail to the:

DIRECTOR
Goethe-Institut Manila
goethedi@pldtdsl.net

GOETHE-INSTITUT
MANILA
687 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

IMMIGRATE TO CANADA

Mr. Richard Nielsen, Lawyer & Ms.Marie Deitz, Licensed Immigration Consultant will be in Manila for **PRESENTATION SEMINARS** regarding all types of **IMMIGRATION** at 6pm starting **April 20 to 25 – 30 seats only**

Programs for 3-9 months processing.

fee P800/person. Please call for reservations.

Standard Immigration Services Inc.
9 Albany, NE Greenhills S.J. Tel: 7213738;
09178171827; 9174814186
email:standarphilippines@yahoo.com

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www.go2canada.com

FREE ASSESSMENT

THE INTERNET COMPANY OF PLDT

infocom

The pioneer in the Philippine ISP industry currently has vacancies for:

Customer Care Representatives

- Graduate of a computer-based degree
- Proficient in internet troubleshooting and operating systems

Content Engineers (Programmers)

- Bachelor's degree in any IT/computer-related course, preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- 1-2 years experience in Java/C++, database applications, web applications using PHP/JSP/ASP, MySQL, MSSQL, TomCat
- Preferably with experience in mobile game development using J2ME
- Fresh grads are welcome to apply, provided they possess the above qualifications

Content Architects (Designers)

- Any college degree, preferably design-related
- 1-2 years experience in graphic design for print and web mediums
- Proficient in HTML, web scripting; programming knowledge an advantage
- Proficient in 3D animation, Flash, illustration, layout and design
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop 6.0 or higher
- Fresh grads are welcome to apply, provided they possess the above qualifications

Marketing/Business Development Officer

- Graduate of a 4-year business-related course
- With 2-3 years experience in marketing/business development, preferably for a content provider
- With excellent oral and written communication skills

The Business Development Officer is responsible for identifying, analyzing, and developing opportunities through new services, solutions or channels that will contribute to the growth of the total business.

Send your updated CV to:
jobs@info.com.ph
Indicate the position you are applying for on the subject line.

Or to:

Human Resources
Infocom Technologies, Inc.
3/f PLDT Tower 1, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City 1226

We will only respond to applicants who meet the minimum required qualifications.

Unilever

REGIONAL ASSISTANT CONSUMER AND MARKETING INSIGHT MANAGER

The Regional Assistant and Marketing Insight Manager will operate and leverage strategic CMI projects. He/She will manage and consolidate market research projects for key innovations. This involves efficient management of the technical, financial and human resources to meet the agreed marketing and business targets. He/She will be responsible for inputs to Quali and Quanti testing for concept development, advertising development, product and packaging tests. He/She will also be responsible for facilitating and documenting direct consumer contact initiates and consumer immersion programs. The successful candidate is expected to explore and identify new media opportunities to deliver competitive advantage at point of purchase.

QUALIFICATIONS

a) **Education**
   - College Graduate, preferably with honors

b) **Relevant Experience**
   - At least 2 years experience in Marketing and Project Management

c) **Professional Skills**
   - Adept in managing both quantitative and qualitative research

d) **Competencies**
   - Strategic Influencing, Clarity of Purpose, Objective Analytical Power

ASSITANT BRAND MANAGER

The Assistant Brand Manager will drive brand building work aimed at delivering the year-on-year growth target for the brand. He/She will manage the progress of project networks and will be the custodian of best practice in brand activation, including application of learnings to launches. This role entails delivering aggressive growth plans, development of world class activation ideas and creating a robust plan that will bring the brand's marketing mix to life. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development of cutting-edge consuemr insights, translating them into solid brand marketing strategies and ensuring their excellent execution.

QUALIFICATIONS

a) **Education**
   - College Graduate, preferably with honors, has strong academic and leadership background

b) **Relevant Experience**
   - At least 2 years of solid background in Brand and Project Management

c) **Competencies**
   - Passion for Growth, Breakthrough Thinking, Strategic Influencing, Practical Creativity, Clarity of Purpose

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS CAN SEND THEIR RESUMÉ and APPLICATION LETTER TO:

UNILEVER PHILIPPINES
1351 UNITED NATIONS AVENUE
MANILA 1007, PHILIPPINES

SHINRYO (PHILIPPINES) COMPANY, INC.

is in urgent need of

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS

- Filipino, Male, not more than 40 years old, with experience preferably in Consulting and/or Construction companies
- Graduate of Electrical or Mechanical Engineering Course from a prestigious university. Registered Professional Engineer is an advantage
- Having substantial knowledge in Engineering Design, Installation, Testing and Commissioning Works. Knowledge in Cleanroom Systems and Co-Generation Power Plants is an added advantage
- Having addition design knowledge of Mechanical control systems, Electrical and Auxiliary systems
- Proficiency in English and with excellent oral and communication skills
- Is willing to be assigned for Overseas assignment

Compensation: Above average compared to industry standards

Please submit comprehensive resumé (with 2x2 photo), written application and brief essay of why you are qualified for the position to the following address:

Shinryo (Phils.), Co., Inc.
Rm. 403-406, 4th Floor
One Corporate Plaza Bldg.
845 A. Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
Philippines, 1200

We need more Aces.

If you're a real team player with
a passion for creating for the online
universe, here is a chance to be part
of a dynamic and highly-competitive
group of Internet marketing aces.

Web Site Designer/Graphic Artist

creative ace obsessed with visually-engaging
and user-friendly web and graphic designs.
You breathe cross-browser CSS, has a grip on
web design issues (usability, cross-browser).
Master of Illustrator, Freehand, Photoshop.
Strong logo design & freehand drawing skills.

Sports Writer/Editor

avid fan of American (US) sports and culture; football, baseball, golf, tennis & basketball in pro & college. Above-average English writing and editing skills, able to do research and write engaging articles on the day's sporting events.

Send a resume, with cover letter, and 3 sample works to traffic.media@gmail.com. Visit JobMarket online for complete position information. Apply only if you can work in Makati city.

VIRLANIE FOUNDATION, INC. is in need of the following positions:

1 PSYCHOLOGIST
- M.A. Grad in Clinical Psychologist
- At least one (1) year experience

1 AGRICULTURIST
- BS Agriculture Graduate
- At least one (1) year experience

E-mail applications to:
virlanie@virlanie.org or call 896-2289/895-5260

We are in need of the following positions *immediately*
Willing to be assigned in Meycauayan, Bulacan

- **MECHANICAL ENGINEER**
  - 20 to 35 years old
  - Male
  - Computer literate (especially AUTOCAD)
  - Preferably with experience in Metal Fabrication
- **ACCOUNTING CLERK**
  - Female, 20 to 35 years old
  - Preferably Graduate in BS Accountancy
  - Computer literate
  - Hardworking, honest & independent

You can mail your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of record at Unit 1105 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig.

A dynamic Multi Disciplinary firm in the Top 200 Architects in the World with ISO 9001 & 14001 invites highly motivated individuals to fill the following positions:

Senior Architect/ Senior Project Coordinator

- Must be Male – LICENSED ARCHITECT
- Must have at least Eight (8) years work experience in detailing and construction drawing
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be male, 40 years old and above
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on Weekends
- Honest with Integrity
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Architectural Designer / Renderers

- At least with five (5) yrs. work experience
- Male/Female Architecture graduate
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Hardworking, willing to be assigned abroad/ can work long hours and on weekends
- Proficient in AUTOCADD

Structural Engineer

- Must be LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in the following trades:

  A. CADD drafting of Structural plans
  B. Quantity cost estimation
  C. Structural design and detailing

- Must be above 27 yrs. old
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Articulate in English
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Chief Accountant

- Graduate of BS Accounting course, CPA
- Experience in an Auditing firm would be an advantage
- Female, 27 – 35 yrs. old
- Experience in handling Tax procedures an advantage
- Can handle work pressures, with strong planning, organizational and leadership/supervisory ability

Assistant Specifications Writer

- Female, 22 – 30 yrs. old
- With knowledge in Construction Materials & Estimates
- Computer literate
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Honest with Integrity
- Hardworking, can work long hours

Mechanical /Electrical / Sanitary Engineer

- Must be LICENSED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / MECHANICAL ENGINEER or SANITARY
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in design and supervision of their respective trades
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND IN THEIR RESUME WITH RECENT 2X2 PICTURE, A COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND NBI CLEARANCE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW INDICATING THE POSITION APPLIED FOR:

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT
MCPO Box 1515
Makaty City 1260

DAYTIME CALL CENTER
needs **LOAN SPECIALISTS**
immediate opening!!!
(all –year round hiring)

- telemarketing experience a plus
- speaks conversational English
- assertive and numbers-driven
- **unlimited income**
- **flexible schedule**
- **with allowances & bonuses**

Please bring your resume and apply personally every Monday at the 7/F Citibank Libis and look for Leo of *LEO 808 Telemarketing* or call **4233296, 4233474 and 4233444.**

For Hiring : **PROJECT ENGINEER/MANAGER**
Project Development : Economic Housing
Project Location : Majada, Calamba City
Project Size : 4.2 hectares

Minimum Qualification Criteria:
Licensed Civil Engineer
With at least five (5) years experience on Economic Housing Project Development
Not more than 45 years old
Willing to handle multi-tasks
Computer literate especially AUTOCADD software

Please e-mail resumé at : jennith_dayrit@yahoo.com
Or Call : Jennith M. Dayrit (0916-4017630)

HYUNDAI

HYUNDAI-ORTIGAS CYBERCARS CORP.

IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

SERVICE ADVISORS

Male/Female college graduate. With at least 1 year experience.

SALES MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

Male/Female, fresh graduates or at least college level with pleasing personality.

With or without experience.

Please come in proper business attire, with your resumé, 2x2 ID picture, transcript of record to:

MS. AU CUNETA

at 500 EDSA corner Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan

Mon-Fri from (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

K&B STAFFING SERVICES, INC. is in need of the following:
- will be assigned in Metro Manila area.

CPA
- Board passer

RECEPTIONIST
- college level
- computer lit./with exp.

SALESGIRL
- college level, w/ exp.

Pls. call-9127317/ 9127315 loc.1

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

SUBSIDIARY CLERK

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic computer operation
- Accounting Skills, Filing Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Computer Skills

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for Advertising accounts receivables, checking of rebates, commission of direct and classified accounts.
- Responsible for reconciling accounts with clients and maintaining files of clients' vouchers and subsidiary ledgers of agencies, direct and other products.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system.

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:
HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

A LEADING MARKETING COMPANY ENGAGED IN NATIONWIDE DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS, IS IN URGENT NEED OF A TOP NOTCH:

HUMAN RESOURCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

- Female, between 30-45 years old; Pleasing personality
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least three (3) years experience in all facets of Human Resource Management in a managerial capacity
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be people-oriented and can deal well with all levels in the organization

APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Box MN – 012005
Philippine Daily Inquirer
c/o Classified Ads
Pasong Tamo cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.
Makati City

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

Jardine Davies

Jardine Davies is one of the longest established marketing companies in the Philippines and is exclusive distributor for market leading construction supply brands including Solignum, Thoroseal and Lentrek.

Refocus of our Marketing and Distribution strategies coupled with continued high demand for our products has created the need for:

SENIOR SALES REPRESENTATIVES (3)

Based: Manila, North & South Luzon

The appointees will lead sales, marketing and promotion activities to support our existing Dealer network in servicing Retailers and end users. Responsibilities will also include arranging and hosting of trade and industry seminars and product presentations.

Applicants should desirably have a construction material sales background and / or have experience in the selling of fast moving consumer products. They must be able to demonstrate stability and development within their careers to date.

A college degree is desirable. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are required and very importantly, applicants must have outgoing personalities and be enthusiastic self-starters.

Competitive salary packages and benefits with a structured training and career path are offered to outstanding applicants.

Please send resumé **(including current salary details)** by post, email or fax to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies Inc.
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com / Fax No. 844-7022

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted.

TSM SHIPPING (PHILS.), INC.

IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

TRAINING DIRECTOR

- Has completed IMO Model Course 6.09 and 3.12 an advantage.
- Must be Master or Chief Engineer with experience in training

TRAINING ASSISTANT / INSTRUCTOR

- Must be Third Mate or Fourth Engineer Officer.
- Preferably experienced as Training Instructor.

Also in need of:

- **IT MANAGER**
- **Technical Support**
- **Recruitment / Training Manager**

Please bring documents and report personally to:

Capt. Ivar Thomasli – Sr. Vice President DL: 551-1525
Ms. Cristina G. Paras – AGM/Q.A Manager DL: 551-9095
TSM HOUSE 1747 Dian St., Makati City
Tel. No. 551-2808 to 15 / 831-1868

URGENT EMPLOYMENT:

COMPANY PHARMACIST

Qualifications:

- Must be a Pharmacist
- With pleasing personality
- Male or Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- At least with 2 years experience, preferably with BFAD matters
- Must be a resident of Bulacan

Bring resumé and credentials (PRC License, Transcript of Records, Diploma, Brgy & Police Clearance, NBI, Cedula)

For more information call or visit our office at:

NATURAL FORMULA INT'L. INC.
B4 L5 Gold Ridge Estate, Sta. Cruz, Guiguinto, Bulacan
(044) 794-1277 / 0919-2391931 / 0918-3300781

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www.go2canada.com

FREE ASSESSMENT

RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.

RMSI

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals...

HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICER

- Female; between 24-30 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- Preferably with two (2) years experience in recruitment and other areas of HR work
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated
- Must be computer literate

MERCHANDISING ASSISTANTS

- Female, between 23-29 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course or Fashion Merchandising
- With at least six (6) months work experience preferably in the same/related field
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be analytical and results-oriented
- Must have good fashion sense
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be computer literate

MARKETING OFFICERS

- Female; between 23-29 years old
- Degree in Business, Marketing Management or Mass Communications
- With at least one (1) year work experience in advertising, publicity or marketing
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

BOUTIQUE MANAGERS

- Between 25-35 years old; at least 5'2 in height
- Graduate of a four (4) year course
- Preferably with work experience in a fashion retail establishment
- Must possess a pleasing and aggressive personality
- Must be very good in customer relations
- Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO E-MAIL OR SEND IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

RUSTAN MARKETING SPECIALISTS, INC.
Human Resources Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

Associate Business Systems Auditor

Reporting Arrangements

The position directly reports to one or more professional staff of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG).

Description of Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for assisting professional staff in the Financial, Administrative and Information Systems Division (OAGF) in ADB-wide conduct of financial, administrative and operational audits with an emphasis on Treasury and other commercial banking products, maintenance of working papers and records; preparation of the initial draft report and final report. The incumbent may execute entire audits under the supervision of professional staff or Director, OAGF. The position is specifically responsible for:

Audit Strategy, Approach and Techniques:

1. Contributing to the efficient and timely conduct of audits by developing or assisting in developing flexible audit plans, schedules and questionnaires on the basis of preliminary evaluation of qualitative, informative and statistical data in the audit area;
2. Providing support in developing a suitable audit program to address defined audit objectives; and
3. Participating in formulating sampling procedures and techniques.

Audit Execution:

1. Executing or assisting in the execution of audits in accordance with a suitable and approved audit program to assess compliance with existing policies, systems and procedures, including contracts and arrangements; and identifying deficiencies and weaknesses in internal controls by examining and analyzing existing computer and manual records, reports and any other supporting documentation; and
2. Verifying and discussing any deficiencies or deviations identified with auditees.

Audit Report Preparation:

1. Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive and concise audit reports containing findings that describe the type and nature of deviations or deficiencies;
2. Formulating recommendations and measures for administrative and procedural improvements;
3. Discussing draft reports with auditee departments/offices; and
4. Monitoring the status of recommendations and conducting the periodic follow-up regarding their status.

Assistance to External Auditors:

1. Conducting the examinations of selected transaction in specific areas to assist the ADB's External Auditors in the audit of the ADB's Financial Statements.

Audit Missions and Other Duties:

1. Participating in the preparation of mission papers. Performing other duties as may be assigned.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- A Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with major in Accounting or Business Administration; and qualification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor;
- At least five years experience in internal audit of financial institutions or similar relevant work in a CPA firm;
- Thorough understanding of auditing principles and techniques as well as management reporting systems; working knowledge of computer audit tools and standard computer software;
- Thorough understanding of principles of internal control systems; an understanding of Treasury products and their risks is highly desirable;
- Strong analytical and organizational skills. Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written and/or oral presentation, taking into account the need to express the overall concepts clearly and explain the sometimes complex interrelationships among the findings and recommendations; ability to determine which details are appropriate to include, and which should be omitted, based on the intended purpose, scope and audience of the presentation; ability to present the resulting information in clear, concise, grammatical English, either orally or in writing as the situation may require; and
- Ability to meet and interact with auditees organization-wide and work as a team member in OAG; an ability to obtain the cooperation and assistance of auditees, convey audit findings unemotionally and without personal criticism, and an ability to draft initial recommendations that will address audit concerns, take account of the resources available to the auditee and be compatible with related auditee operations

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS05-051(4)-OAGF** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org by 29 March 2005.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ADB

PSMBFI

Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund, Inc.

Is in need of:

INSURANCE MANAGER

- Master's Degree in Business or related field
- Preferably with a Bachelor of Laws degree and a member of the Bar
- At least 7 years experience in Insurance Business with 5 years full-time experience in life accident or health insurance administration

POLICY SERVICE SUPERVISOR

- Bachelor's degree
- At least 5 years experience in the business, including 3 years full-time experience in underwriting procedures

Please send your application, resumé & transcript of records at:

Admin. & HR Department
GF DPRM Annex Bldg., Camp Crame, Quezon City
Deadline for submission: Friday, April 1, 2005.

Kami ay isang EMPLOYMENT AGENCY na nakabase sa Japan at ngayon ay nagsasagawa ng operasyon sa Pilipinas

Marunong ka bang mag hapon?
Nagtrabaho ka na ba sa isang Japanese Company?
Maraming TRABAHO ang naghihintay sa'yo mula sa mga Japanese Big Business sa Pilipinas!

これを読める人の
仕事がたくさんあります。

NOW We are looking for
- Secretaries (Japanese Speaker)
- IT Engineers (Japanese Speaker)
- Translators/Interpreters (Japanese)
- CPA holders
- Others

Global Manpowerlink DB Inc.
1602 16th Floor Cityland 10, Tower II, HV De La Costa
Corner Valero St. Salcedo Village Makati City
jobs@gmdb.biz http://www.gmdb.biz
Tel. 02-814-0380 Fax. 02-892-0664
Send in resume through FAX or EMAIL.
NO FEES! NO SALARY CUTS! FOR DIRECT HIRE!

WANTED

(For Immediate Hiring)

AUDIT STAFF

- Preferably Male
- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy (BSA)
- Computer literate
- 25-30 years old
- Must have experience in audit works

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Single/Female; 25-30 years old
- Computer literate
- Must be a college degree holder
- With pleasing personality
- Proficient in written and oral Communications
- Fluent in English (oral/written)
- Able to work in minimal supervision
- At least with 2 years experience in same line of work

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Male/Female, newly graduate
- Computer Science, Fine Arts and/or Mass Communications Graduate
- Willing to undergo training on basic graphics, other softwares
- Basic knowledge in lay-outing and Power Point a plus

Apply at the 4th Floor, Edmark Bldg.,
#356 P. Tuazon Blvd., cor. 21st Ave., Cubao, Q.C
(Tel no. 913-13-24)
Look for MS. Nhora P.

Abbott Laboratories

"To be the Premier Health Care Company in the Philippines" is our Vision.

The existence of Abbott in the country for more than 60 years is a tangible expression of this commitment, providing innovative products and services that span the continuum of care — from prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure.

Do you want to take part in building the Premier Health Care Company in the Philippines? Then talk to us...

Qualified candidates should send an updated resumé to:

Human Resources Department
(Code:DSM or PMR)
ABBOTT Laboratories Phils.
102 EDSA corner Madison St.,
Mandaluyong City

E-mail:
teresita.bernardo@abbott.com

www.abbottrecruitment.com.ph

Only short listed candidates shall be scheduled for interview. Previous applicants need not apply. Applications will be treated with strict confidentiality.

DISTRICT SALES MANAGERS

(for GMA, Luzon, Visayas)

We need managers who will sell and model the core values of Abbott to their subordinates and customers. Leaders who will ensure that programs are implemented in their respective districts to support plans for growth. Motivators who will provide feedback, coaching and mentoring to Professional Medical Representatives to develop their skills and deliver what is expected from them. We need individuals with the commitment and passion to achieve great things.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in any field;
- Experience as District Sales Manager in the Health Care / Pharmaceutical industry preferably with a multinational company;
- Leadership skills demonstrated in the way Professional Medical Representatives were motivated and managed making them effectively perform their duties and achieve goals;
- Being a role model, should be able to tell us about own proven track record in sales goals achievement;
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.

PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Qualifications:

- University graduates, any four or five year degree courses;
- Strong interpersonal and team skills;
- Very good communication and presentation skills with the ability and aptitude to learn and understand effectively information of medical science nature;
- Licensed drivers are desired but high potential non-drivers will also be considered;
- Importantly, must be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines;
- With or without previous work experience, recent graduates from Manila and the provinces are encouraged to apply.

AIRLINE BUSINESS INDUSTRY

An expanding Ground Handling firm engaged in the Airline Business Industry has excellent career prospects for the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENTS/CARGO AGENTS

(Passenger Services/Cargo Services)

- Male / female 20 to 25 years old
- At least 5'3 in height
- College Graduate
- Service oriented and willing to learn new skills
- Good moral character presentable appearance
- Good in English both oral and written
- Smart and Enthusiastic
- With high sense of responsibility
- Willing to work on shift schedule weekend and holidays

OPERATIONS AGENT

- Male or Female
- College Graduate
- Presentable appearance
- Good knowledge in geography
- Computer literate
- Good in English both in oral and written
- Good mathematical understanding
- With high sense of responsibility
- Service Oriented
- Has the ability to deal with people
- Willing to work on night schedule, weekends and holidays
- Maintain good performance under stress

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

- At least three years driving experience
- With professional drivers experience
- In good physical condition, good eyesight
- Willing to work on shift schedule weekends and holidays
- Good moral character high sense of responsibility
- With experience in heavy equipments is advantage

PLANNING ANALYST

- male / female
- graduate of any business course/mechanical engineering
- at least two years experience in corporate strategic planning
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- proficient in windows based applications specifically MS Word, MS Excel, and powerpoint

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Accounting graduate
- Preferably with one or two years experience
- With pleasing personality
- Computer literate

Please send your resume with contact telephone number and ID picture to:

P.O. Box 7764
Domestic Airport Post Office
Domestic Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF FILM AND TELEVISION

The International Academy of Film and Television, Inc. (IAFT), the 1st private Film School in Southeast Asia dedicated in developing future filmmakers of the world is currently looking for competent individuals to fill in the following positions:

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Job Summary:

Under the direction of the CEO and Chief Operating Officer shall be responsible for the overall direction and administration of the academic, marketing, finance, human resources, production, and technical functions of the organization.

Qualifications:

- 15+ years of management and 5+ years as top level executive
- Experience in film and TV industry on international level
- Distribution, marketing, and finance background a plus
- Experience working with and managing multi-nationals
- Strong organizational and communications skills essential
- Fluent in English
- Highly energized and flexible
- Willing to nurture the growing issues of a start-up company
- Master's Degree in Business Administration

VP for PRODUCTION SERVICES

Job Summary:

The Vice President for Production Services shall be responsible for organizing, planning, creating strategy for Bigfoot Production Services which includes soundstage, post facilities, post production and production outsourcing work. Scope also includes marketing, operations and management of all services to be offered.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years experience in managing soundstage facilities and equipment
- Experience in sales and marketing is a plus
- 10+ years management background in production services
- Understanding of media formats including new media, film, video, digital, hi-def
- Understanding of international marketplace/ clients
- Outstanding written, verbal and email communication skills
- Fluent in English

VP for PRODUCTION

Job Summary:

The Vice President for Production shall be responsible for organizing, planning, creating strategy for Bigfoot Productions including hiring and managing producers, overseeing productions, coordinating with production services. Job will also liaise with internal and external clients concerning production requirements.

Qualifications:

- 5+ years as head of production
- 5+ years experience managing post-production facilities
- Knowledge of project management principles, techniques, and tools
- Ability to supervise and train employees, to include organizing, prioritizing, and scheduling work assignments
- Must possess strong organizational and people relation skills
- Knowledge of finance, accounting, budgeting, and cost control procedures
- Able to communicate effectively through written or verbal media

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resumé to: **jobs@study-film.com** Visit us at: **www.studyfilm.com**

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myAyala.com

www.myAyala.com

myAyala.com, Inc. is a member of the Ayala Group of Companies. As a pioneer in the field of e-commerce and online shopping, we are in need of highly competent, disciplined and creative individuals who can fit the following positions:

1. Flower Shop Manager

Qualifications/Skills:

Must have at least 2 years experience in operating a flower shop. Extensive knowledge in the supply and quality chain of a flower shop operation. , Basic oral and written communication, organizational, marketing and negotiations skills are required Computer and internet skills a plus.

Responsibilities:

In charge of setting up, growing and managing a flower shop. Develop and implement tactical and strategic plans for a flower shop.

2. Florist

Qualifications/Skills:

Must have at least 2 years experience in arranging flowers. Must be able to creatively design and execute different flower arrangements and styles.

Responsibilities:

Ensure proper production, quality control and handling of various flower arrangement/products

3. Technical Support staff.

Qualifications/Skills:

Must have a working knowledge in network configuration, TCP-IP, computer troubleshooting, data base handling and maintenance. W-LAN/WI-FI, SQL and ASP background required. Must be able to handle customer support.

Responsibilities:

Maintain network and system hardware. Address customer queries. Manage database

Submit applications via email to <moya.bon@myayala.com> fax <8132414> or mail to myAyala.com M/F Greenbelt 1 Mall Ayala Center Makati City 1228 before April 8, 2005.

Our Company distributes well known food and non-food products of multinationals and is also involved in the telecoms industry.

We are currently looking for individuals who can join our organization where opportunities for a successful career is UNLIMITED!

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

- Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management of Psychology or any other behavioral related courses
- Experience in Recruitment Benefits Administration, Employee and Labor Relations, Training and Organizational Development is an advantage
- Adept in written and oral communications
- Proficient in MS Office
- Results-oriented and willing to handle multi-tasking responsibilities
- Not more than 30 years old

SALES SUPERVISORS

- Candidate must be a college graduate in any field
- At least 2 years of working experience in a related field specifically handling tertiary accounts.
- Experience on people management is an advantage
- Applicant must have a passion for fieldwork; must possess a professional driver's license and is of good moral character
- Not more than 30 years old

DISTRIBUTOR SALES PERSONNEL

(10 positions)

- Candidate must be a college graduate, preferably fresh graduates in any field
- Must possess good selling skills and has business sense
- Must have good scholastic records
- Candidate must be proficient in MS Office

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- Candidate must be a graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably fresh graduates
- With good scholastic records
- Proficient in MS Office specifically Excel
- Willing to work overtime and can work under pressure
- Highly analytical, skilled in both oral and written communications

All interested applicants may e-mail their comprehensive resumé with a recent 2x2 picture at:

rgpigamboa@pacific.net.ph

CITYLIMITS Privilege Club

SMD Marketing Corp.

A progressive company is in need of the following:

For Immediate Hiring

TELEMARKETING MANAGER

- M/F, 23-35 years old
- With at least 1 yr. experience in handling telemarketers
- Articulate and with very pleasing personality
- Must have excellent communication skills & know how to construct business letters

TELEMARKETERS

- M/F, Part time or Full time, w/ or w/o experience.
- Salary – minimum wage, plus commission

DELIVERY MEN

- Must have his own motorcycle & familiar around M.M.

Please call us at tel. nos. 8923762-63 or 7287213-15 or apply personally at Unit 534 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower, Pasong Tamo Makati City (Infront of Don Bosco School). E-mail vip@citylimits-club.com

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A PRESTIGIOUS COMPANY AND THE PROFESSIONALS IN FOODSERVICE EQUIPMENT IS IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 Mechanical and Electrical Engineers
50 Fabricators
50 Assemblers
50 Welders
20 Electricians
20 Refrigeration Technicians

Qualified applicants are invited to submit their comprehensive resumé, most recent 2x2 picture, transcript of records, certificate of employment at:

P.O. BOX 147 S
Novaliches, Quezon City

MOF Company, Inc., exclusive agent of **Hanjin Shipping Ltd. & Senator Lines** in the Philippines, leading transport service companies engaged in general shipping operations, is **URGENTLY** in need of dynamic and energetic professionals.

Audit Manager

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- With minimum of 4 years related experience, preferably in an auditing firm
- Literate on various computer applications, with knowledge in computerized Accounting System
- Adept in auditing reports preparation
- Can work under pressure and extended hours.
- Good command of the English language.

Applicants are requested to personally handcarry their resumé with latest picture not later than **April 31, 2005** at:

CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
(near Dept. of Foreign Affairs)
(Please look for Melai – Personnel Section)
or **Call: 551-7530**

NTFP Exchange Programme

The NTFP-EP (Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme), a regional network of organizations based in Southeast Asia (see www ntfp org), is in search of **Sales and Customer Service Officer** for the CustomMade Crafts Center. The Center is a programme of the NTFP-Task Force, a nationwide network of grassroots NGOs and Peoples Organizations working towards dual goals of forest conservation and enhanced livelihoods.

The Sales and Customer Service Officer is a junior executive who will focus on increasing sales and providing quality service to customers. His / her main responsibilities include showroom maintenance, customer care, answering customer inquiries, carrying out client calls and product presentations, preparing presentation materials, participating in sales activities, ensuring that orders are delivered on time and in good quality.

Qualifications

- Has had at least 1 years experience in sales, marketing, customer service or related field (preferred)
- Has a degree in sales, marketing or communications (preferred)
- Has good presentation skills, human relation skills and has very good oral and written communication skills.
- Fluent in both English and Filipino.
- Knowledgeable in the use of powerpoint and excel

Submit letters of Application and Resumes (including 2 references) to NTFP-EP, 92-A Masikap Extension, Bgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 or email to ntfp.ep@gmail.com no later than March 31, 2005. Only short-listed applicants will be notified

FT.com
FINANCIAL TIMES

The Financial-Times, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, is currently expanding its research operations in the Philippines and urgently requires

SENIOR BUSINESS RESEARCHERS

Responsibilities:
- Provide high quality business research to FT clients
- Respond effectively to telephone and email inquiries
- Ensure that requirements meet the customers' service expectations and deadlines
- Write concise and accurate research based on the most up-to-date information available

Requirements:
- A broad understanding of various international businesses, markets and industries.
- Excellent report writing skills
- Strong all-around communication skills
- 2-3 years previous business research experience
- Ability to think creatively about research requests
- Proficiency at searching a wide range of business research information tools and sources
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team to meet tight deadlines
- Previous experience working for a multinational company and reporting to a remote headquarters

The FT Research Center is based in London and provides high quality research and information to over 300 corporate clients worldwide and online via FT.com, the Financial Times website

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than March 28, 2005, to ***The HR and Administration Manager*** *at the address below. Incomplete applications will not be processed.*

Financial Times Electronic Publishing Philippines Inc.
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Visit our website www.ft.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. a new company based in Subic is in urgent needs of the following top caliber applicants:

➢ **MARKETING AND MARKET INTELLIGENCE**
➢ **SALES EXECUTIVE** (Female)
➢ **SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT** (Female-Mandarin Speaking)

Requirements:
- Graduate of any Engineering or related course;
- At least three (3) years experience in R & D, Sales and Marketing job is a plus factor; but we welcome fresh graduates
- Knowledgeable Windows XP and Office;
- An applicants has an advantage if he/she has orientation in mechanical, electronics and electrical design or as sales or marketing
- Proficient in any of the following languages: Japanese, German, Spanish or French
- Able to communicate well and has a strong interpersonal skills;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy;
- Successful candidates shall be provided with accommodations

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-2736 to 37 Fax No. (047) 252-2735
E-mail: sally@ltw-tech.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

LTW TECHNOLOGY (SUBIC) INTERNATIONAL, INC. a new company based in Subic is in urgent needs of the following top caliber applicants:

➢ **MOLD DESIGN ENGINEERS**
➢ **R & D ENGINEERS**
➢ **ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS**

Requirements:
- Graduate of any Mechanical, Electrical and Electronics Engineering;
- At least three (3) years experience in mold, research or design; but we welcome fresh graduates
- Knows how to operate Protel, Orcad, Cam350 Autocad, OSD, Pro-E or solid works; if no experience training will be provided;
- An applicants has an advantage if he/she has orientation in plastic molding, die casting, metal parts; injection tool or GPS wireless equipment telecommunications; electronic equipments;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Dynamic, team player, goal motivated, loyal and trustworthy;
- Successful candidates shall be provided with accommodations

Qualified applicants may send their resumé to:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
#23 Efficiency Avenue corner Innovative St. SBIP-1, SBFZ 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-2736 to 37 Fax No. (047) 252-2735
E-mail: sally@ltw-tech.com

WE ARE IN NEED OF PROFESSIONALS WHO ARE PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED SYSTEMATIC AND LOOKING FOR HIGH PAYING JOB.

JOB OPENINGS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ACCOUNTING CLERK
SECRETARY ENCODERS
STORE SUPERVISORS
CASHIERS

- Female, college graduate

ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE WILLING TO WORK LONG & FLEXIBLE HOURS. MUST BE WILLING TO UNDERGO TRAINING.

EXPERIENCE IN YOUR FIELD IS AN ADVANTAGE.

Please apply in person at 158 P. Sevilla St., between 6th & 7th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City. BRING RESUMÉ w/ 2X2 colored photo.

A diagnostic company needs hard working and goal-oriented:

☐ **ECE w/ license**
☐ **MedTech preferably w/ sales experience**
☐ **Office Clerk**

New graduates welcome to apply.

Send resumé to:
Suite A-106 Ben-Lor Bldg.
1184 Quezon Ave, QC 1103

URGENTLY NEEDED

A well-established realty Co. is in need of

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Graduate of Bachelor of Laws from a reputable law school. Proficient in legal writing & preferably have some experience in the preparation of pleadings & other legal communication as well as having experience appearing in court and quasi-judicial bodies.

Applicant may fax resumé at
4115528 or call up BERNA
at 412-1812 / 411-5528

MILLENNIUM CHEMICAL RESOURCES

A chemical firm engaged in Sales of Preventive Maintenance Chemicals, Lubricants, and Special Paints is in need of:

(10) MARKET SPECIALIST:

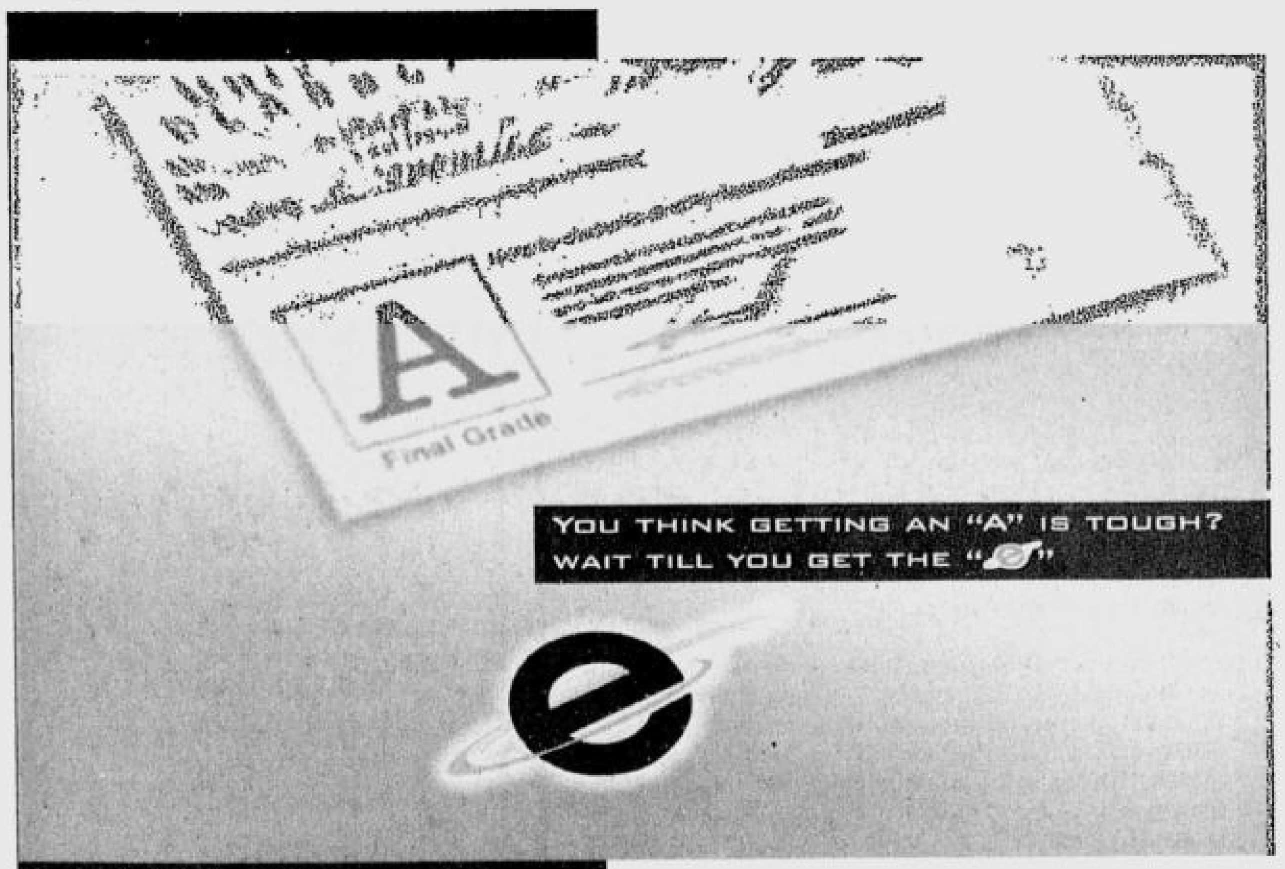
Female not more than 27 years old with pleasing personality
Graduate of any course (graduates of business related course would have a definite advantage).

WE OFFER Lucrative salary package, commission scheme, transportation allowance, monthly incentives

The successful candidate must value the importance of long-term career profession, willing to handle work in a pressure-filled atmosphere, goal-oriented and self-motivated, and with efficient communication skills.

THIS IS AN IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

APPLY in PERSON with your comprehensive Resumé,
Transcript of Records, 2x2 picture,
from March 14 to March 31, 2005
SUCCESSFUL applicants will be CALLED for interview.
4th Flr. JOSE PURA BLDG., 109 K2nd St. cor. Erostain St.
(former K-D) Kamuning, Quezon City,
Tel. No. 928-1524 / 990-8881 • email: mcr_inc@hotmail.com


A
Final Grade
YOU THINK GETTING AN "A" IS TOUGH?
WAIT TILL YOU GET THE "e"

REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH TO GET AN "A"? WELL, GETTING THE "e" IS LIKE THAT. ONLY TOUGHER.

The eTelecare challenge is not easy. But once you have earned the mark you are on your way to a great career with excellent growth opportunities. Its comprehensive training and mentoring programs allow you to reach your full potential in a casual and supportive work atmosphere. And the compensation and benefits package is unrivalled in the industry.

Best of all, you get to work with the industry's best. This experience is simply incomparable.

Perhaps it's the training or team culture or the knowledge that you work for the world's most awarded call center. But whatever it is, you'll get that feeling, you'll get that high when you have earned the e mark.

Industry-leading Employee Satisfaction Rating
Top 10 Leader in Human Capital Development based on neoIT and CMP Media LLC's "Offshore 100" list
Ranked #1 in Watson Wyatt's Industry Compensation Survey
Winner of ICCM's Best Outsourcer for four straight years
Truly a Great Place to Work

If you have what it takes to be part of our world-class team, we welcome you to our Manila and Cebu hubs.

The challenge is open to all:

Outbound Sales Associates
Quality Assurance Associates
Team Leaders
Operations Managers
Shift Managers

Join our Open House!
March 21, Monday, 9:30AM-6:30PM

MAKATI HUB:
12F PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Ave cor Rufino St., Makati City

EASTWOOD HUB:
20F CyberOne Bldg. Eastwood City Cyber Park
Bagumbayan, Quezon City

eTelecare
GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Four Easy Ways To Earn the e Mark:

- **Call** for an immediate phone interview —
  Manila: (02) 580-6530
  Cebu: (032) 415-9030
- **Visit** us for pre-employment screening —
  Eastwood Office: 20/F CyberOne Building
  Eastwood City Bagumbayan,
  Quezon City
  Cebu Office: 6 F FSB Asia Town IT Park
  Salinas Drive, Lahug
  Cebu City 6000
- **E-mail** your resume to —
  Manila: recruiting@etelecare.com
  Cebu:ceburecruiting@etelecare.com
  or www.etelecare.com
- **Fax** your resume to —
  Manila: (02) 687-4041
  Cebu: (032) 415-9458

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syngenta

Syngenta Philippines, Inc., a leading multi-national agribusiness company, powered by its global mission to bring plant potential to life, and with its principal based in Switzerland, is in search for a Marketing Head to aggressively spearhead the planning and development of Syngenta's crop and product marketing strategies and to lead the Philippine team of dynamic Marketing Managers in achieving outstanding performance in the industry.

The successful candidate **must** possess the following traits and competencies:

- Male or Female, in late 20's to early 30's
- With a Degree in Agriculture, Marketing, Finance, or Business Management
- An MBA graduate of UP Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, De LaSalle, AIM, or reputable MBA institutions abroad and belongs to the Top 10% of the MBA class
- With 5 years of professional experience in sales and/or marketing
- Highly fluent in the English language and proficiency in another Asian language other than local language is an advantage
- Displays good leadership qualities, teamwork, extensive networking skills and effective interpersonal skills
- Is analytical, a strategic thinker and highly results-oriented
- With Geographic (Asian/ International) mobility and cross-cultural flexibility

What Syngenta has to offer to the successful candidate:

- Highly competitive compensation and benefits package and
- An Opportunity for fast-track career advancement within Asia Pacific

Interested individuals may send their *Curriculum Vitae or Resume* on or before March 30, 2005 to the following address:

Code: SPI – MH
Syngenta Phils. Inc.
Human Resource Department
8F Salustiana Bldg.
104 Paseo de Roxas Avenue
1229 Makati City

Or e-mail it to hradmin.cp@syngenta.com

World Vision, a leading international development and relief organization urgently needs

World Vision
Child Sponsorship

"Our vision for every child, life it all its fullness;
Our prayer for every heart, the will to make it so."

12 Professional Fundraisers

Applicants should have the following credentials:

➢ A strong Christian passion to help poor Filipino children;
➢ College education, preferably with a degree in Marketing, Business Administration, or Communications;
➢ Relevant experience in sales, marketing, accounts management, customer service, public relations, teaching, or training; and
➢ Excellent communication, people, and organizational skills.

Successful applicants will receive competitive salaries and performance-based incentives. All positions are for immediate hiring.

Please send your resumés personally, through mail, email, or fax not later than April 1, 2005 to:

Ms. Tere Ramos
World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.
883 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Numbers: 374-7618 to 28 • Fax: 374-7660
Email: phl_hrd@wvi.org

VSO

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community organisations in the Philippines. 45 professionals in the fields of community-based natural resource management, gender and development, peacebuilding, participation & governance, and disabilities are currently working all over the Philippines.

Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Philippines is recruiting a Programme Area Manager (PAM) to implement, supervise, and manage the various components of its peace building work in Northwestern Mindanao. The PAM will be concurrently responsible for the implementation of an EU-funded VSO PEACE Mindanao project.

VSOP's peace building programme revolves around three interrelated and vital components : enhancing understanding and social interaction between Muslims and Christians, building economic resilience among internally displaced peoples (IDP's) and communities, and psycho-social intervention and support to victims of trauma caused by conflict and displacement.

The VSOP peace building PAM will be directly engaged in strengthening the capacity of NGOs, CBOs, and local and national government units in peace building service delivery; in strengthening the accountability of public institutions (executive, legislative, and judicial) and relevant groups such as media, academe, churches, and the corporate sector to the rights of IDPs; and in promoting their welfare and aspirations to other development organizations and institutions, both local and international.

Responsibilities of the PAM post include :

1. Implementing the various components of the peace building programme area plan of VSO Philippines, including managing the EU funded PEACE Mindanao peace building project;
2. Managing the human, material, and financial resources of the PEACE Mindanao project;
3. Leading in volunteer administration and support; and,
4. Maintaining and developing the wider VSOP programme

You will be responsible to the Country Director, VSO Philippines, and part of your duties will be to line-manage three other staff persons. You will be based in Iligan City, Northern Mindanao. Successful applicant must be in post no later than May 1, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO webpage: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines

CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must answer an electronic VSOP application form available at www.geocities.com/vsophilippines PLEASE READ the Guidance Notes on Completing the Application Form carefully before filling up the forms. Previous applicants need not apply.

Please send your completed application form to: vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submission : 1200 hrs, APRIL 04, 2005
Interview Date : TBA

***Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.**

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PERSONNEL SPECIALIST

An International Organization needs a PERSONNEL SPECIALIST who will serve as the Chief of the Human Resources Division. Incumbent will be responsible for providing full range of human resources development, personnel, and travel services to the organization. Participates in the formulation of HRD/Personnel plans and policies of the organization in accordance with regulations and directives. Position supervises 2 Personnel Assistants.

Qualifications: Business related degree is required (preferably in a field closely related to personnel administration/management preferred). Post graduate studies is highly desirable. Five to seven years of experience in human resources development and personnel management is required. At least 3 years of which must have been in a supervisory capacity. Must possess the ability to plan, develop and manage personnel functions. Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills a must.

Compensation: Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan is offered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN MARCH 25, 2005

Send letter of application with comprehensive resume to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

A major distributor of sports equipment is in need of upbeat and dynamic individuals with the following qualifications

Qualifications for

Sales Associate

1. Must be at least high school graduate, college degree is an advantage.
2. With pleasing personality and willing to work at extended hours.
3. Must be knowledgeable in Windows based computer applications.
4. Willing to be based anywhere in Metro Manila.
5. Able to write and speak English fluently.

Address your application, Bio data and or Resume to Master Sports Corporation, Ground Floor, West Tower Condominium, South Superhighway cor. M.H. del Pilar sts. Makati City, 1233 Philippines.

Mercedes-Benz

CATS Motors Incorporated (CMI) is the country's general distributor of Mercedes-Benz passenger cars, commercial vehicles and genuine Mercedes-Benz parts, accessories as well as official merchandise. We are currently in need of competent and flexible individual to beef up our expansion program.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

- Preferably Male, between 25-35 years of age
- Graduate of BS Business Administration/Management or any related discipline.
- With at least 3 years experience in the same capacity.
- Proficient in MS Office applications.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old.
- College graduate from a reputable university.
- Experience in automotive sales an advantage but fresh graduates from reputable schools are also welcome.
- Excellent communication skills and possess a pleasing personality.
- Knowledge in driving is a must.

SERVICE ADVISORS

- Male, between 25-35 years old, preferably Engineering graduate
- At least 3 years similar experience gained from an automotive company
- Proficient in automotive troubleshooting
- Possesses a valid driver's license

SERVICE TECHNICIANS

(Auto-Electricians/Mechanics)

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- At least 3-5 years experience in electrical-mechanical repair or troubleshooting in a Mercedes-Benz workshop
- Overseas experience as Auto-Electrician and/or Auto Mechanic an advantage
- College or trade school graduate

CADET ENGINEERS/ TECHNICIAN TRAINEES

- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering, Electronics and Communication Engineering, BS Automotive Technology or any related degree course
- Willing to undergo Basic & Advanced Mercedes Benz Automotive Training Course

DRIVER

- Male, preferably not more than 35 years old
- At least High School or trade school graduate
- Well-versed in both motorcycle and tow truck vehicles
- Must posses a professional driver's license

Due to urgency of the requirements please apply personally with a copy of your resume, latest picture, NBI clearance & other credentials during office hours between 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Friday to

CATS

Human Resources Development Department
1008 EDSA Greenhills San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel No. 723-5808 to 12 Email: catshrd@cats.com.ph

A-Z DIRECT MARKETING, INC.

The Exclusive Distributor of Reader's Digest magazine, books, and home entertainment products

URGENTLY NEEDS

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Male, not more than 30 years old.
- Graduate of BS in Accountancy
- At least one (1) year experience in Accounting field.
- Experience in inventory an advantage but not a requirement.
- Knowledgeable in MS Excel, Access.
- Must be willing to render overtime work.
- Hardworking, responsible & trustworthy.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Female, between 23 to 27 years old.
- Graduate of any business or communication course.
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, CorelDraw, Powerpoint or any desktop publishing applications.
- Can communicate well in written & oral English.

For interested applicants, please send your application letter together with your detailed resume, 2x2" picture and other credentials to:

The HR Department
AZ Bldg. 723 Sgt. Bumatay St. Plainview, 1550 Mandaluyong City
Tel: 747-9250 Fax: 533-2399
E-mail: hrd@azdirect.com.ph

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Blvd., Greenhills, Mandaluyong City 1552
631-6310; 631-6307; 631-6356; 632-9547
Website: www.geocities.com/lsmandaluyong2002
P.O. Box 12959 Ortigas Center Pasig City 1605

WANTED FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005-2006

GRADE SCHOOL ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, MUSIC AND COMPUTER TEACHERS

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* Knowledgeable in MS Office

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* Male, B.S. Management or Engineering graduate.
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* Preferably knows how to drive.

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114 Technology Ave., Phase 2,
Laguna Technopark Incorporated, Biñan, Laguna

or e-mail/fax at
hrs@isuzuphil.com/02-8420202 or 049-5410333

Deadline for submission is on Tuesday, 22 March 2005.
We will only respond to qualified applicants.

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WEBFORGE PHILIPPINES, INC., is an Australian company engaged in the manufacture and distribution of high quality Industrial Gratings, Handrails and Drainage Products used in power plants, petrochemical and industrial facilities, as well as commercial and residential construction. **WEBFORGE** is located at the Light Industry and Science Park 1 in Cabuyao, Laguna and is offering excellent career opportunities for:

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- Good communication skills both oral and written
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Submit resume with latest photo to:

WEBFORGE PHILIPPINES, INC.
Main Avenue corner Hologram Street Light Industry and Science Park 1 Cabuyao, Laguna or send to E-mail address at webphil@webforge.com.ph.

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Requirements:

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- Familiarity with J2EE and J2ME

Interested applicants may send their resumés to:

Human Resources Department
MITC Building
333 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner N. Garcia St.,
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or
hrad@mitc.com.ph

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- Applicant should have a vast knowledge in the Analysis and Design of Timber Structures / knows the latest CODE on Timber Design
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Contact Person: Engr. Rhonda A. Rapirap

An internationally based organization has an urgent need for:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The person we are looking for should possess the following qualifications:

1. Male or Female
2. With 2 years experience in both marketing and market research functions as follows:
   - conduct market & industry studies for consumer goods
   - prepare marketing presentations to customers
   - oversee market research projects (FGDs, product testings, etc.)
3. Good work attitude, positive disposition and pleasant personality
4. Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Access)

Qualified applicants may send on or before 23 March 2005 their application letter and comprehensive resumé with 1x1 photo to:

Box No. 100
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Mandaluyong City

WANTED

FOOD SERVICE MANAGER

- ❖ Male / Female, 27 to 35 years old.
- ❖ Graduate of HRM or other related course.
- ❖ Minimum three years experience.
- ❖ Must have strong planning, organizing, leadership and controlling skills

BOOKKEEPER

- ❖ With one (1) year experience

ASST. COOK

- ❖ Preferably good in pasta and pastry

Please contact Reinalyn B. Billones or Leah A. Hilario of DOH Coop. at telephone # 7438301 loc. 2233 / 2800.

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- **Account Manager**
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- **Account Executive/Sales Coordinator**
- **Office Assistant**
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  - ➢ Must have 2 years intensive training w/ related field
  - ➢ Dedicated, Motivated and RESULT Oriented
  - ➢ Smart, Fast Learner and Must be computer literate (windows nt / xp / powerpoint)
  - ➢ Must have excellent interpersonal skills and leadership skills
  - ➢ Goal-oriented and able to work under pressure
  - ➢ Willing to travel within Philippines
  - ➢ Fluent in oral & written communications (English)
  - ➢ At least 25-35 years of age with pleasing personality
- **Promodiser** (for Metro Manila / Angeles Pampanga)
  - ➢ w/ 2 years experienced in Hardware Section
  - ➢ Aggressive w/ good communication skills
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  - ➢ At least college level

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DUKE'S FOOD PRODUCTS, INC.

A fast growing manufacturer of quality confectionery products- Is urgently hiring the following for its expansion:

- **DISTRIBUTOR ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS (DAS)**
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  - ➢ Must be Male, at least 26 years old
  - ➢ Must be a graduate of any business related course
  - ➢ Must have at least 3 years extensive work experience in handling Distributors of Consumer Products
  - ➢ Must have an existing network of distributors
  - ➢ Must have an established professional relations with the trade
  - ➢ Must be computer literate
- **R & D / Q.C. ANALYST/IN LINE Q.C.**
  - ➢ Female, not more than 28 years old
  - ➢ Graduate of Chemical Engineering/BS Chemistry or BS Food Technology
  - ➢ Minimum of 2 years work experience in the maintenance, housekeeping, R & D/ Q.C. job and over-all supervision of plant operation of a Confectionery manufacturing company
  - ➢ Willing to work on night shift
  - ➢ With highly developed planning, communication, and leadership skills
  - ➢ Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

❖ Residents of Marikina, or its immediate vicinities are most welcome to apply

Send your Letter of Application and Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 ID picture to:

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486 J.P. Rizal St., Malanday, Marikina City

FASTPAK GLOBAL EXPRESS CORPORATION
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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male or female
- Between 25 to 30 years of age
- Graduate of a four-year course, preferably, marketing or business-related course
- Experience or background in sales and marketing
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Enjoys interacting with people and possess good leadership
- Aggressive and hardworking
- Skilled in time management and organization techniques
- Excellent computer skills (word, excel, Powerpoint, internet, web, email)
- Knows how to drive with valid driver's license
- Experience in events planning
- Budgeting background

Interested applicants may send their application letters and resumé to HR Department care of Ms. Erlinda B. Mananghaya, or, may email to lbmananghaya@fastgroup.biz.

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con•tact cen•ter a•gent (kän' takt sen' tər ã' jənt) *n.* **1.** a person who possesses excellent English communication skills **2.** someone who is very confident, aggressive, enthusiastic, assertive and self- motivated **3.** an individual who is highly personable and has strong work ethics **4.** somebody who is up to the challenge of telemarketing to US,UK and Australian clients **5.** a college graduate of any bachelor's degree

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We are a company specializing on the field of education that gives you the opportunity to earn while you learn on a part time & full time basis.

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Robinsons Galleria
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Merlyn Maano

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Brgy Paligsahan
Quezon City
Look for: Jonah Olipano

22/F Citybank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
Look for:
Lucy Mallari

Please bring your bio-data & a recent photo, Mon & Tues 10am-6pm.

Cebu City Branch
301 B Mango Square Mall
Gen. Maxilom Ave Cebu
Look for: Shiela Sayaboc/
Agnes Fuentes

Davao City Branch
Regina Comm'l Complex
C.M. Recto, Davao City
Look for: Shiela Sayaboc/
Delia Solon

Baguio City Branch
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Look for: Lydia Dacanay

San Pablo Branch
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San Pablo City
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LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVES

- – Graduate of any four year college course
- – Articulate, aggressive and result-oriented

Please send mail fax or email your application letter, with recent 2x2 photo and comprehensive CV to:

The Manager
G/F Reliance Center Building
No. 99 E. Rodriguez Jr., Ave. Pasig City
Fax: 671-6321 email: grb@mydestiny.net

WANTED

SECRETARY

- B.S. Office Management/Secretarial Administration graduate
- Female; not more than 30 years old; Good moral character
- Computer literate.

APPLY PERSONALLY:

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA Madre Ignacia Ave., Grace Park, 1400 Caloocan City Tel. No. 366-6334 local 111 (H.S.); 101 or 201
BRING: Transcript of Records, Bio-data, Handwritten application letter, SSS No., TIN, ID Picture (1x1), X-Ray & Medical Certificate.

Lets grow together

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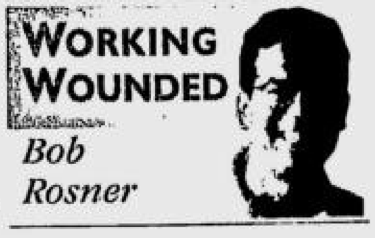
Position:	International Technical Training Engineer
Working mode:	Full time
Working load:	Average
Requirements:	• Speaking English very well, with English either mother tongue or second language; Spanish, French, Russian, Arabic and Portuguese who can speak English fluently preferred • Good telecom or computer background · Rich teaching experience preferred • Telecom equipment maintenance background preferred • Responsible, cooperative and enthusiastic • No limits for nationality
Salary:	To be negotiated
Contact:	Mr. Qaisar at: qaisar@zte.com.cn Tel: +86-13692155253

Too scared to speak in public?

DEAR WW: I'm one of those people who would rather die than give a speech. But suddenly I've got a bunch of presentations coming up. Help!
I'm Speechless



Bob Rosner

Whenever I think about the fear of giving a speech, I think of my Uncle Fred. Fred spent World War II on PT boats in the Pacific. So when my dad bought a boat, he couldn't wait to have Fred join him for the first cruise. They were barely out of the dock and Fred was tossing his cookies over the side. My dad was shocked when Fred told him that he had thrown up every day that he was on a ship in the Navy.

Just as an experienced sailor can get sick every time he sails, even the most experienced spea ker can be anxious before a big speech. The key to giving a successful presentation is to learn how to manage your anxiety. I've listed tips for doing this below. For more information, check out "Working the Room" by Nick Morgan (HBS Press, 2003)

Do you do your homework on the group and the setting? The more you find out about the audience the more confident you should be that you'll have something to offer them. So contact the people organizing the speech and ask if you can talk to a few typical participants. Also try to visit the venue before your presentation. I find it helpful and relaxing to see where I'll be speaking in advance of the talk.

Do you write out the speech before you try to give it? There is nothing like having the entire speech written down in black and white to make you feel confident. I'm not saying that you should read the speech to the audience, but least you should know that you've got the beginning, middle and ending nailed before you get in front of a microphone.

Do you visualize yourself being successful? Right now you are consumed by thoughts of failure. Fight this fear by doing everything you can to visualize a successful speech. See the happy faces, hear the applause, heck, if it helps imagine yourself belly bumping someone in the front row.

Do you pause during your speech? You can always spot a nervous person giving a speech because they race through the speech to get it done as fast as possible. There is nothing more relaxing than taking your time and remembering to breathe during your talk. Also remember to pause during the speech, it gives you a chance to collect your thoughts and it gives the audience a chance to think about what you're saying.

Can you redefine your fear as excitement? I get concerned if I'm not a little nervous before I speak. I actually try to use this nervousness to bring more energy to each audience.

Follow these tips and the only thing that will get tossed at your talk are the favorable comments and bon mots in your direction.

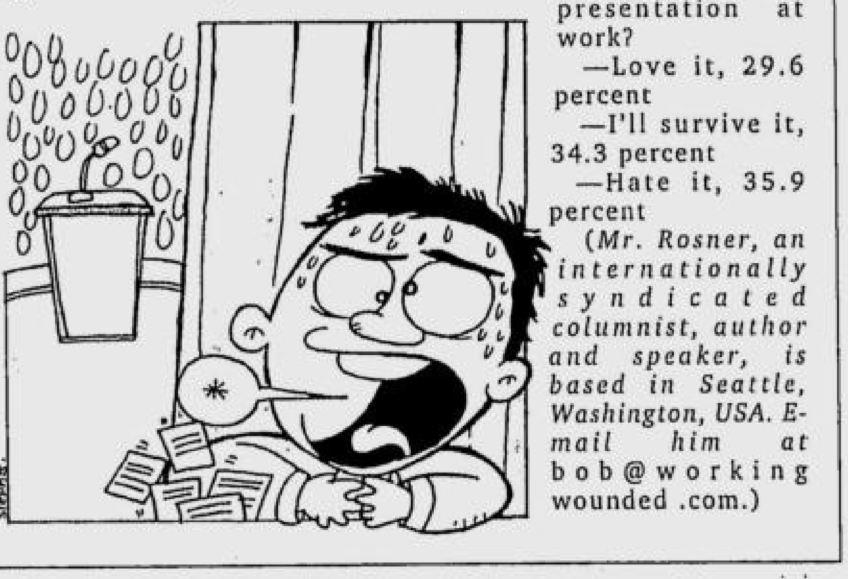
Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best sums up your feelings about giving a presentation at work?

—Love it, 29.6 percent

—I'll survive it, 34.3 percent

—Hate it, 35.9 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)



Winning paradigms for new ...

From page 14

want a job, but you also don't want to stay for just a day. You're looking for one where you will fit and which fits you. As in the Cinderella story, you simply can't force yourself into a mold that isn't for you.

Keeping sane

When you feel pressures mounting, stop awhile! Be still. Gain composure by focusing on your gains, not your losses. You've been called for an interview. There is indeed an opening in your target company. The HR person seemed impressed with you. You're satisfied with the resumé you've just finished.

Try to see this as a moment in time and not much more. This is not forever. This, too, shall pass. You have come this far!

Remember when you thought you would never make it to graduation day? But you did! There's no reason to doubt you can make it again through this one. Tomorrow is another day.

Don't lose touch

At whatever stage during your job search, never lose touch with yourself. There are many reasons why things don't seem to be working out. Many graduates blame external circumstances for their job-hunting woes. The interviewer had a bias for graduates of exclusive schools. My parents ridiculed me again. My mediocre classmate who got hired knew someone big in the company. The jeepney ride was bumpy.

Take a long hard look at yourself. Why would a potential employer want to hire you anyway? Have you honed your skills to be able to contribute meaningfully? Have you brushed up on your language skills or upgraded your computer know-how? Are you continuing to develop yourself? Are you marketing yourself as that one person who can contribute to the company rather than one who simply needs a job?

On the other hand, what do you really want to do? That may seem like a hard question to ask of one who has just left school to join the workforce. But you have to try and list what it is that actually excites you before you can excite others about you. No interviewer will be impressed if you don't know what you enjoy doing, what you are good at, what you value, what you dream of and aspire for.

Remember that the job market is competitive. Simply put, you must have skills and traits that will make people choose you over another candidate. You will not be judged as a stand-alone but as a participant against a backdrop of countless others. You must therefore shine and glitter.

Have fun

More importantly, you must find a fit between you and the organization, its corporate values, its culture, its very nature. Remember that when you join a company, you become one of "them." Will you be proud of this new identity?

Life after graduation can be a lot of fun to explore, that is, if you choose to have it that way. It may be a bumpy ride ahead, but a grouchy attitude, temper tantrums, and a generally defeated outlook will only add to the load. Savor your joyride! You will only look for a first career once.

(Loree Cruz-Mante is a human resources and organization development practitioner, resident writer of the Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture [ISACC], and consultant with a leading outplacement, career transition and management firm, Drake Beam Morin. E-mail your comments to lcmante@ya hoo.com.)

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WOULD you like to be part of a family that can help you in your career growth and development? Join the People at Work community where members support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this group to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. Members will have access to updates and discounts on People at Work events, advice from People at Work columnists and writers and other members, chat schedules with members and "eyeball" events. To join, send your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, e-mail address and company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to telephone numbers (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376, from Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Qualifications
- Female, at least 21 years old
- Preferably Accounting Graduate or similar course
- Computer literate
- Flexible & dependable
- Hardworking & willing to work for Project for the Poor
- Can work with minimum supervision

Please submit your application letter and resumé to:

KASAGANA-KA DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC.
#9 Don Rafael St., Don Enrique Heights,
Holy Spirit, QC
Tel. No.: 931-4335

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Qualifications:
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- Proficient in MS Word and Excel
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- Above average communication skills.

ENCODERS

Qualifications:
- College graduate, preferably Accounting Graduate
- Preferably in MS Word and Excel

Interested applicants are requested to personally submit their recent resumé and credentials (Transcript of Records & NBI clearance) Mondays to Wednesdays, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. only to:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center
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Below 30 years old w/pleasing personality, BS Computer Science Grad. Has good working attitude, flexible & customer service oriented.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
BS Accounting Grad. Computer literate. Female not more than 30 yrs old has at least 1 year exp.

Interested applicant should apply personally w/resumé at: 2nd Flr ROSE INDUSTRIES BLDG. #11 Pioneer St., Brgy Kapitolyo, Pasig City 634-7262 / 635-9006 / 683-0871

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Genuine strength

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

DO you notice that the higher our position in the workplace, the more self- sufficient we tend to become? When people see us to be so capable that it seems there is no situation we can't handle, we feel good, we feel invincible. I suppose this is okay as long as we are aware that anything good overdone can also lead to bad. Look what happened to Charlie N.

Charlie was all right as a junior executive—proficient, hardworking, cheerful, very pleasant to be around. Everybody, in fact, called him "Kuya Charlie." Then he got promoted, again and again, until he reached the number two position in the company. To others, he remained "Kuya Charlie, *takbuhan ng bayan*" but inside he was falling apart. One day, he just failed to show up at work; he had a nervous breakdown. It seemed he had developed an "Atlas complex," which made him feel that he, and he alone, could carry the whole world on his strong shoulders.

Strength has its downside: the "strong one" soon expects too much of himself, believing there can't be anyone else above him. When we deny the fact that we can't do everything on our own, we are proceeding from pride and destructive self-sufficiency. It is good to be self-sufficient but it is also healthy to admit that we need a caring God we can cry to, get mad with and scream at in moments of despair and frustration. Even Jesus, in exclaiming "My God... why have you forsaken me?" showed us the value of our human need to be dependent on One who is superior to us. Far from being a sign of human weakness, this dependence marks the birth of genuine strength.(*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

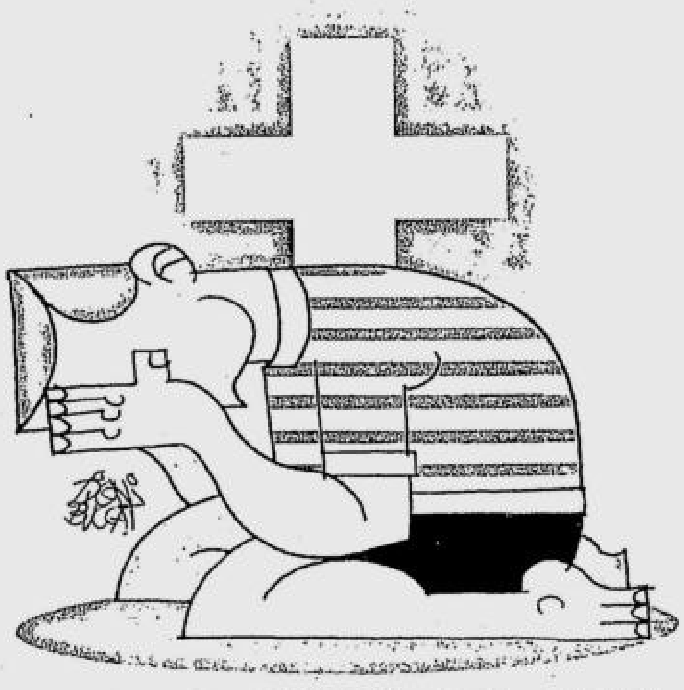

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27, 66 or Matthew 27:11-54
And about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Feeling forsaken

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I MET a *kababayan* in Rome dressed in an expensive Italian leather jacket but who looked a bit depressed. He told me when I asked how he was that he had lost his job and "*nagbabakasakaling mabigyan ng trabaho ni* Father". He came over for my Mass and prayed that he may be able to find a job. From seeing his face, I sensed that he must have cried to God with the same words that Jesus uttered on the cross, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" "Why did you allow that I lose my job and suffer want and shame for being jobless and penniless?" He reminded me of the millions of jobless or unemployed people who may have also felt "forsaken" either by luck, by their family or loved ones, by the government they placed so much hope in, or even by the God in whom they believe. Such feelings of desperation and hopelessness in people caused by either work-related factors or otherwise, need healing and remedy.

Jesus, who experienced the same feeling of being forsaken by the Father when He was hanging on the cross, could assure everyone that there is meaning and sure remedy for every desperate and hopeless experience one can ever bear in this life. Being sent by the Father and as the Savior of the world, He can give us the grace to transform our painful experiences of being forsaken into the joys and rewards of eternal salvation.

We just need to be united with the Forsaken Jesus in our body, mind, heart and soul—doing every tedious and monotonous act our work demands, bearing every inconvenience or suffering our coworkers knowingly or unknowingly inflict on us, and even offering to Jesus the pain and shame of losing a job. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I'm afraid of being jobless'

From page 14

job openings and vacancies. Call up the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of the Department of Labor for schedule of job fairs in municipal and city halls near your locality. There are job fairs organized in big shopping malls. Call up the alumni office of your school, look at the bulletin boards in your barangay and in parish offices, and other places. Both your ears must be tuned to getting information. Don't forget the Internet. Some big PESOs provide free online person-job matching. Bring with you copies of your resumé wherever you go.

5. **Make a good resumé.** You can get tips on how to make one and see models of good resumés in books. My articles on effective resumé writing that leads to successful interviews were published in the Sunday Inquirer last Oct. 17, 2004, Oct. 31, 2004, and Nov. 14, 2004.

6. **Prepare yourself for job interviews.** You can get tips on how to prepare for successful interviews from books. I wrote a series of articles on "How to Answer Frequently Asked Questions in Job Interviews" which had been published in the Sunday Inquirer dated Sept. 5, 2004, Sept. 19, 2004 and Oct. 3, 2004. Try to screen the invitations for job interviews. If the interview is for a job in your preferred list or a job that will use your preferred skills, go for it. If not, don't go. This is specially so if you are currently employed and have to ask permission to be absent to answer calls for interviews.

7. **If you must accept a job offer that is not suitable to you because of family pressures, remember to do your best.** Every job is a learning opportunity. You develop new skills, your personality and your character. You are able to clarify your career interest i.e., is this the job to pursue or to get out of?

Know the requirements and standards for the job position and meet them to the best of your ability. Even if you don't like the job, you need it for work experience and reference. Nowadays, it is not enough to meet the standards for the job; you must exceed them.

Make sure that your boss is happy with your performance. Try to ask him or her for feedback on tasks assigned to you and to tell you how you can improve your performance. Don't forget to be present everyday and to be punctual, including in the submission of requirements. Get along well with your peers at work. Help them after you have done your work. They will also help you do a better job.

8. **List down the things you do in the job that you enjoy doing.** You can add these to your list of skills and expand the job positions you can apply for as you continue to examine advertised job positions. The more skills you have the more options are open to you. Revise your resumé as you acquire work experience and add skills to your list.

9. **If you find that you are not in the right career, and not in the right job, continue your job search and your networking.** Devote your weekends to job search and to follow up on your job leads.

Believe me, there are job vacancies waiting to be filled. You just need to know where they are. Some jobs may not be the right ones but you can use them as steppingstones to the right ones. You acquire technical and interpersonal skills and you chalk up needed work experience. Also, other jobs may turn out to be the right one for you after being exposed to it. People change; some develop new career interest with experience and as they are exposed to learning experiences.

As for your parents, be open to them and share your experiences with them so that they will understand and pray with and for you. Help with the chores at home and avoid incurring expenses. Once you get a job, give a part of your salary to your parents for your brother's education. Be prudent with your money; make a budget and stick to it.

God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc., a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

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- **Market Specialist III G-18**, Item Nos. 31, 37, 63 / Bachelor's degree / 2 yrs. of relevant experience / 8 hrs. relevant training / CS (P).
- **Creative Arts Specialist II G-15**, Item Nos. 102, 108 / Bachelor's degree relevant to the job / 1 yr. relevant experience / 4 hrs. of relevant training / CS (P).
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- **Market Analyst II G-13**, Item No. 66 / Bachelor's degree / CS (P).

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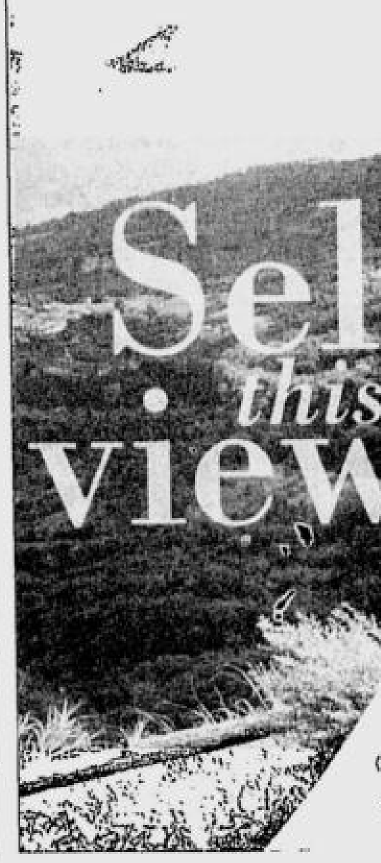

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Winning paradigms for new graduates about to work

By Loree Cruz-Mante
Contributor

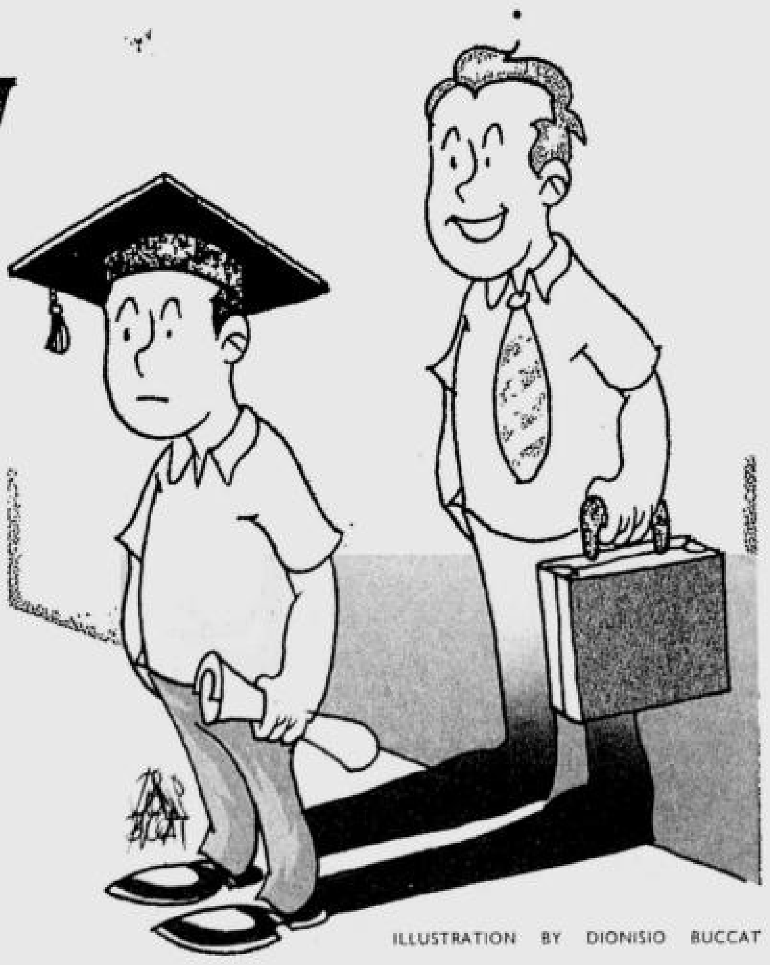
ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

GRADUATION is a marker event, a rite of passage, a crossover ritual. For some, it marks the end of allowances and curfews, of the certainty of being provided for by able parents. For others, it marks the end of working shifts to afford tuition, of putting life on hold while waiting for delayed funds from the province, of worrying whether one will continue to have the wherewithal to enroll one semester more.

For all graduates, graduation is a transition to adulthood where the world of work looms ever so large and forbidding, waiting to be conquered and subdued.

Ambiguities

On graduation day, there is a dizzying excitement in wearing one of those black togas in the heat of midafternoon. But there is also an equally frenzied anxiety about what to do next. As in any closing chapter of life, graduation is a time for both nostalgia and fear.

Many graduates take a rollercoaster ride that seems to last forever, at least until they land a first job or start a business. One moment, the world is friendly and there for the taking; the next moment, it is daunting and formidable.

Be assured, dear graduate, that you are not losing your mind! These ambiguities are part of any transition. All graduates before you have felt the same discomfort. These disconcerting thoughts merely affirm that you have a shared heritage.

Statistics

It is useful to know the country's unemployment rate, but there is not much use meditating on it. People find jobs every single day despite the grim statistics! It is all right to be aware that the job market is depressed, but to conclude that you will therefore not find a job—or worse, not even try looking—is going quite too far. Such logic does not serve any good purpose except to rob you of the passion to take life at face value, even when it seems difficult to do so. Will this information prevent you from looking for a job anyway? Is it ever an option to stay put and not even try?

The process, not just the end

I have learned, through years of counseling people through their careers and transitions, that those who survive job loss with mind and soul intact are usually immune to downturns. Not that they necessarily find jobs quickly, but that they know how to see each day as part of a larger mosaic which, at the present time, they are not yet privileged to see. It is the excitement of looking forward to the day when they can see the whole picture that keeps them going through the process of piecing the parts together.

"Do not ask what's the story, you will miss the mystery," goes one song. Too many graduates miss out on the vital lessons to be learned during career search because they are fixated on the ending. The process, long-drawn, tedious, nerve-racking as it may be, is still equally exciting, fun, and life-changing. Don't forget that in some distant future, you will look back to this stage in your life and find pleasure in recalling the disaster of your first application form, the near heart attack of a first interview, the gruesome sight of long lines of applicants. And oh, what tears were shed because you may have flunked a test!

Pressures from several sides

New graduates are usually bombarded by pressures often coming from the very people who are expected to uphold them during these times of testing.

Parental pressure is real for many graduates. This may come in blatant forms ("When will you find a job?" or "What, no job yet?") to more subtle but equally hurtful forms ("We could use some help with the groceries." or "I thought we [your parents] have graduated, but...")

Peer pressure can also be devastating, especially when less brilliant ones overtake those voted most likely to succeed and land a job faster than everyone else. The temptation to ask "What's wrong with me?" seems like an attractive self-downer.

Above all, there is self-imposed pressure. Allowing yourself to be sucked further and further down in a spiral of negative imaginings is sure to ruin whatever resolve you have left. Whose shadow are you running away from, anyway?

No matter how strong the pressures are, never allow yourself to grab anything just because you have to land a job quickly. You may find out soon enough that you will quit it almost as soon as you start. Sure, you

NEW/P. 12

Afraid of failures?

BEST ★ Attitudes

Text by Teresa R. Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

NOBODY can blame us for being afraid of failure. After all, we're battered from all sides by admonitions "to succeed." We're always measured in terms of one kind of "success" and if we don't live up to others' expectations we are called "failures."

1 But that's not fair. Failure is part of being human. We all have a capacity to fail; if we do not accept this, we cannot be true to ourselves.

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2 Failure can be good, in fact, just as success can be bad, too. (You've heard of people getting spoiled due to success, haven't you?)

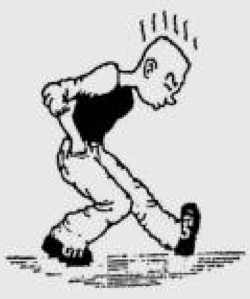
3 Failure is actually a healthy sign that one is trying to reach one's potential. This means that if a person is not failing regularly, that person is working below his capacity—and that is the real failure.

4 Failure shows us the good in being humble...

5 Failure opens for us the doors to new challen ges and fresh hopes...

6 Failure shows us the good in being humble...

7 Failure encourages us to be more creative, to try the untried...

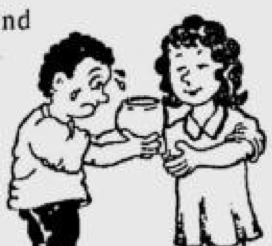


8 Failure leads us to know ourselves better, to make friends with the person within us...

9 Failure frees us from illusions, from false ideas we may have of life and other people...

10 To turn failure into success, follow these three steps: (a) acknowledge your mistakes; (b) admit your mistakes to others; and (c) make amends if necessary or possible.

11 So—face your failures and be a successful human being!



'I'm afraid of being jobless'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I HAVE carried this fear since I graduated from college 15 months ago with a degree in business, major in management. I became even more depressed to read in the papers this month that there were two million college graduates produced this March by schools throughout the Philippines. Two million college graduates are now looking for jobs! Added to this huge number are the million others, including me, who are still looking for jobs up to now.

Ever since I graduated from college, I have been looking for work but I cannot find the right one. At first, I was choosy. I wanted the right job that fits my educational background and interests. I wanted an office job in a business organization, which will enable me to gather and analyze data using my basic computer skills.

I was called for some interviews but nothing came out of them. I was hired as a salesman for consumer products but this lasted only for five months. I didn't pass the probationary period. Then I worked for two months in sales in a multilevel organization. From these two experiences, I learned that selling is not a suitable career for me. I hate calling on customers, selling the products to them and serving them. Now, I'm no longer looking for the right job. Any job will do so long as it is not a sales job.

I'm also under great pressure to get a job because my parents expect me to help them in sending one of my two younger brothers to school. At home, I am made to feel like a failure. Also, most of my friends and co-graduates now have jobs. I'm getting more and more demoralized each day and losing my self-confidence.

Please help me.
Mr. Demoralized

I can empathize with your plight and that of so many of others in similar circumstances. The pressure on you to find a job comes from internal and external forces and this makes you depressed and anxious.

There are several things that you can do. The first is to offer your fears, anxieties, depression, hopelessness and helplessness to God. Pray to Him to give you the right job that is suited to you and which will use the potentials and abilities He has endowed you with. Pray to God to guide you as you look for and evaluate job opportunities. I know of no other way to reduce the negative emotions that now grip you and which do not help you.

Say to yourself in the morning: "Today is the day that I will find the right job. With God's grace, I can and will find the right job today." Do this daily and often during the day when you are overcome with these negative emotions. Each time you go out to apply or to be interviewed, see it as "planting seeds." Some seeds are bound to sprout and grow. Believe and act on your belief.

With the self-confidence that comes from holding on to God, you then do the following things:

1. **Make an inventory of your skills and abilities.** Classify them into those that you like doing (such as gathering data and analyzing them using basic computer skills) and those that you don't like (such as face-to-face selling). Knowing your skills will help you identify job positions to apply for and which will be included in your resumé.

2. **Examine closely the many vacant positions advertised.** Look for positions in the Sunday Inquirer that require the skills that you enjoy using. Write these positions down, the names of the companies advertising them and contact addresses. If your preferred skills are data gathering and analysis using basic computer skills, positions that you might consider are field researcher and research analyst in marketing research companies, documentation clerk, accounting staff, etc.

Take careful note of the other requirements for the job position, such as, gender (male or female preferred), age range, good oral and written communication skills, previous work experience required, etc., character and personality traits, such as honesty, and integrity, being responsible, willing to work long hours, high energy level, etc. These are just as important as the technical skills required for a job position. These will guide you in how to be a good employee.

3. **Develop or update your network.** List down the people you and your parents know, where they are working and what positions they occupy. Include your former classmates and friends who have jobs in your network. Ask each person in your list if there are vacancies in their companies for the positions you have listed and ask for their help. There may be no vacancies right now but they may refer you to people they know and who may know what companies have job vacancies. As employees resign or retire, vacancies are created. Give them copies of your resumé. Write down their names and telephone numbers and do a follow through on each of them every week.

4. **Look at other sources of**

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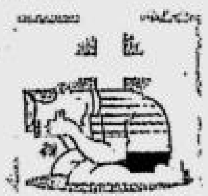

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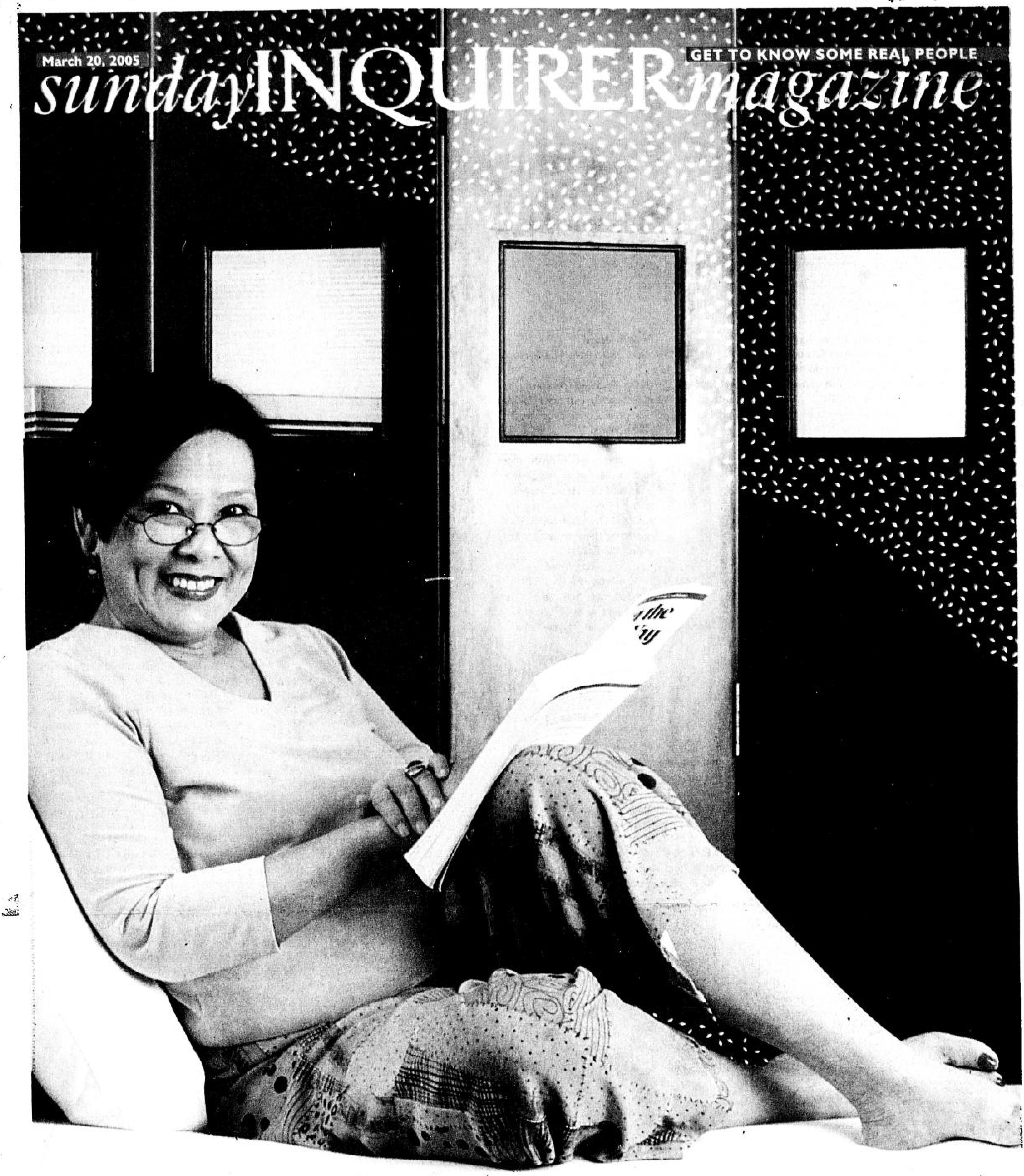
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE



Tweetums Gonzalez Rediscovers The WRITING Life

After losing the ability to enjoy books when she had a stroke, the maverick writer and essayist is happily back to lapping up novels in her retirement—and soon, maybe even writing one of her own

By Alya B. Honasan
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

IN MANY ways, the stroke that writer, essayist and erstwhile corporate maverick Barbara "Tweetums" Gonzalez suffered in September 2003 has been a mixed blessing. After an earlier operation to treat a neck infection left her face crooked, the stroke straightened it out. Although she remembers "staring into space" a lot, she also finds that it has become easier to speak in Spanish, a language she learned a long time ago in Madrid. "So for that, thank you God for the stroke!" she exclaims. "The brain is really so mysterious.

"But you know what's affected, and it's not obvious?" she reveals one day in her airy penthouse apartment in Makati, where she also teaches classes on writing and—dig this—knitting. "I don't feel anymore. If somebody told me something, I say, 'Oh,' and then suddenly my face is wet because I'm crying. That's the only way I know I got hurt. I know intellectually something happened, but I don't feel it in my heart." It's a milder version of the great "blankness" she felt immediately after her stroke. "In a way it's good, really, because I don't feel any pain, although I don't feel much joy, either. I was told it would take about two years to recover."

Widely read for her newspaper columns and essays on matters of the heart and human relationships, several of them as a columnist of this paper from 1996 to 1999, Tweetums can talk about the seeming loss of feeling, this lodestar of her material, so straightforwardly it seems almost unreal. "I think the connection from my brain to my heart has been affected." Then, as if to prove that the damage was not that permanent, she laughs out loud. "*Natapos din siya* (finally exhausted) after years of overuse! I live alone, and sometimes there are empty days when I just watch TV, and it's okay with me. I have no restlessness or longings. Even when I make decisions, I can look at all the options."

Tweetums fervently took up knitting, a hobby of hers since she was a girl, and now attends Pilates classes three times a week,

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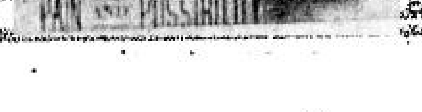
THE SUMMER READING ISSUE



The Word
Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A New Way of Doing the Siete Palabras

Can you name seven of your most fervent desires and the seven people you'd like to forgive and ask forgiveness from? What seven things would you like to do for your mother?

YOU may follow the Seven Last Words on radio or television on Good Friday if you wish. Or you may try doing the following meditation alone or with a small group in a quiet place before a crucifix.

You don't have to rush to finish the Seven Last Words. Linger on whichever "Word" you feel the Spirit is touching you and spend the time speaking to Jesus, or just being still for as long as you can listen to His small voice in your heart. Be prepared with your writing materials.

First Word

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." (Lk 23:24)

Write down the names of at least seven persons you want to give forgiveness to, and to receive forgiveness from—as if today were the last day of your life.

Second Word

"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk. 23:43)

If God were to call you seven hours from now, who would be the seven persons in your life you want to be around to see you go? Why?

Third Word

Jesus said to his mother: "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple: "Behold your mother." (Jn 19:26-27)

What are the seven last things you would like to say to (or do for) your mother on the last seven days of your life?

Fourth Word

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mt. 27:46)

What might be the seven things (persons or situations) that most frequently test your faith in God and people? Compose a prayer for them.

Fifth Word

"I thirst." (Jn 19:28)

What are your seven most intense desires at this time of your life? Be honest and don't correct and rationalize your feelings. Own and honor them and bring them to Jesus thirsting on the Cross.

Sixth Word

"It is finished." (Jn 19:30)

What are the seven last things you want to accomplish during the last seven years of your life?

Seventh Word

"Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit." (Lk 23:46)

Write a letter to Jesus telling him how his dying is important to you. Tell him how you feel about your own dying, and the dying of those whose lives have brought meaning and hope to your own life

* * *

Today is Palm Sunday. It's a good time to wish you an early "Happy Easter!"

We at CMY will be at Shepherd's Place in Cavite for a quiet Holy Week-end praying for you, my friends (and waiting for you if you feel you need the Sacrament of Reconciliation). Q

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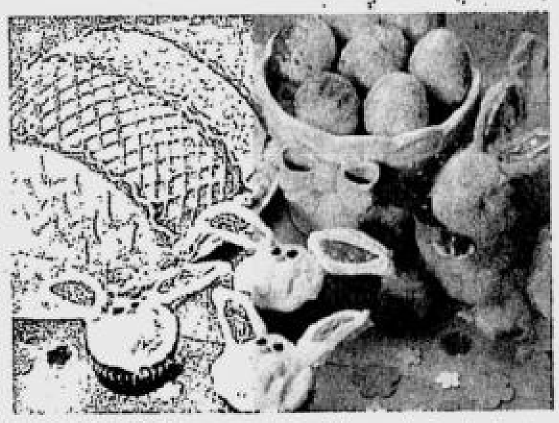


EASTER FUN Relax in a delightful haven during the Lenten season with great discounts on room accommodations at The Richmonde Hotel. There will be thrilling activities for kids on Easter Sunday like games, the traditional Easter Egg Hunt and the Mad Science show. A sumptuous Easter Sunday luncheon buffet awaits diners at The Richmonde Grill. For inquiries, call 638-7777.

For more of This Week, see page 7

Two Poems

By Doris Trinidad

O.B.E.

Suppose I told you
about winged creatures
that inhabit my sleep—
is there a chance
you won't turn away?
But I can never make you see
how water in a cistern
dances up like diamond strings
when I cover it with a kitchen sieve.
I could never take you
even if ever so tenderly
to the region of implausible things
where cisterned water wakes
and dances in dazzling strings
because by your mere looking
it will pull you out of your body
like it did to me.

Dream Master

For such a time have I known you
yet not known you—
of all the faces you have shown me
I never asked which one was true.
Once you put back the fallen jewels
of my shattered watch
to teach me something,
perhaps the secret nature of time.
Once you were a Teacher preaching
to a coven of chosen seekers
in a classroom in the woods..
Once you took me flying
to my buried body from another life
from whose finger
I retrieved my wedding ring.

Once I felt such sadness missing you
for you had gone away to war.
Once you lay dying
and could not let life go
without us both saying "I forgive you."

Once we lay all night
on hewn stone slabs
to watch the journey of the stars.
Once you asked me to leap from a cliff
to prove I could do it and live.
Once you made me climb a steeple
to show me there is no difference
between up and down.

Once you were a lady genteel and kind
once also a boy pulling a red trolley.
Once you were Don Juan in a SUV
teaching me how to drive.
Once you loved me.
Once I was made to see
you never could be mine.
At times I weary of losing you
and finding you from long ago
Friend and fickle habitant
of half-light and shadow.

My Life as EMPEROR
SU TONG
PIDGIN LEVITATIONS
DUNE
RICHARD NORTH PATTERSON
CONVICTION

RUDY ESPERAS

Tweetums

...from page 1.

which have also hastened her recovery. What was peculiar, however, was that, after the stroke, she lost the ability to absorb anything she read. "I tried to read four novels, two by Isabel Allende and two by Tom Robbins, and I got all the facts mixed up. I just thought, maybe I'm not meant to read yet."

A woman of words

If she hadn't been insulated by her condition, one wonders what such a jarring limitation could have meant to such a woman of words. Tweetums published "How Do You Know Your Pearls Are Real?" in 1991, and won a National Book Award for it, and "We're History" in 1998. She began teaching her writing class based on the book "Writing The Natural Way" by Gabriele Lusser Rico in 1991, when she was still corporate communications director of Coca-Cola, and has since helped some 250 students find their voice and tap into the truths of personal experience to write more creatively.

In 1996, this great-granddaughter of Maria Mercado Rizal, the elder sister of national hero Jose Rizal, decided to research into the life of her renowned great grand-uncle. "I knew we were related, but I never knew what happened to his life until I learned his 100th death anniversary was approaching. So I read Austin Coates's biography 'Rizal, Philippine Nationalist And Martyr,' and I fell in love with the guy. I cried and cried, because he finally meant something to me and I felt a very strong connection." Tweetums even remembers going to a seminar in neuro-linguistic programming, where she was led in an exercise to find her higher self—"and I ended up talking to Rizal. That surprised me, but I know I was talking to him, and he was not wearing black," she says with a laugh. "It was something khaki-colored, and he talked to me about my mother and his mother, and his relationship with her. 'You know how hard it was?' he asked me. And I thought, 'Yeah, that must have been hell.'"

Tweetums has become such a believer she still has a project in mind involving her illustrious ancestor: to translate some of his writings from the La Solidaridad newspaper. "What I've noticed is, the translations are bad because he wrote in Spanish, and Spanish has a subjunctive tone, so people translate him in the subjunctive and it becomes hard to read. I think I should translate this when I retire—which means now!"

She has written much about being a mother (to three daughters and a son), and a daughter, Tweetums says, "because that's what happens in my life. I teach that every personal essay must have a universal experience. So I write it personally, but I know that what I'm writing about is a problem of women my age, anticipated by younger women, or experienced by older women."

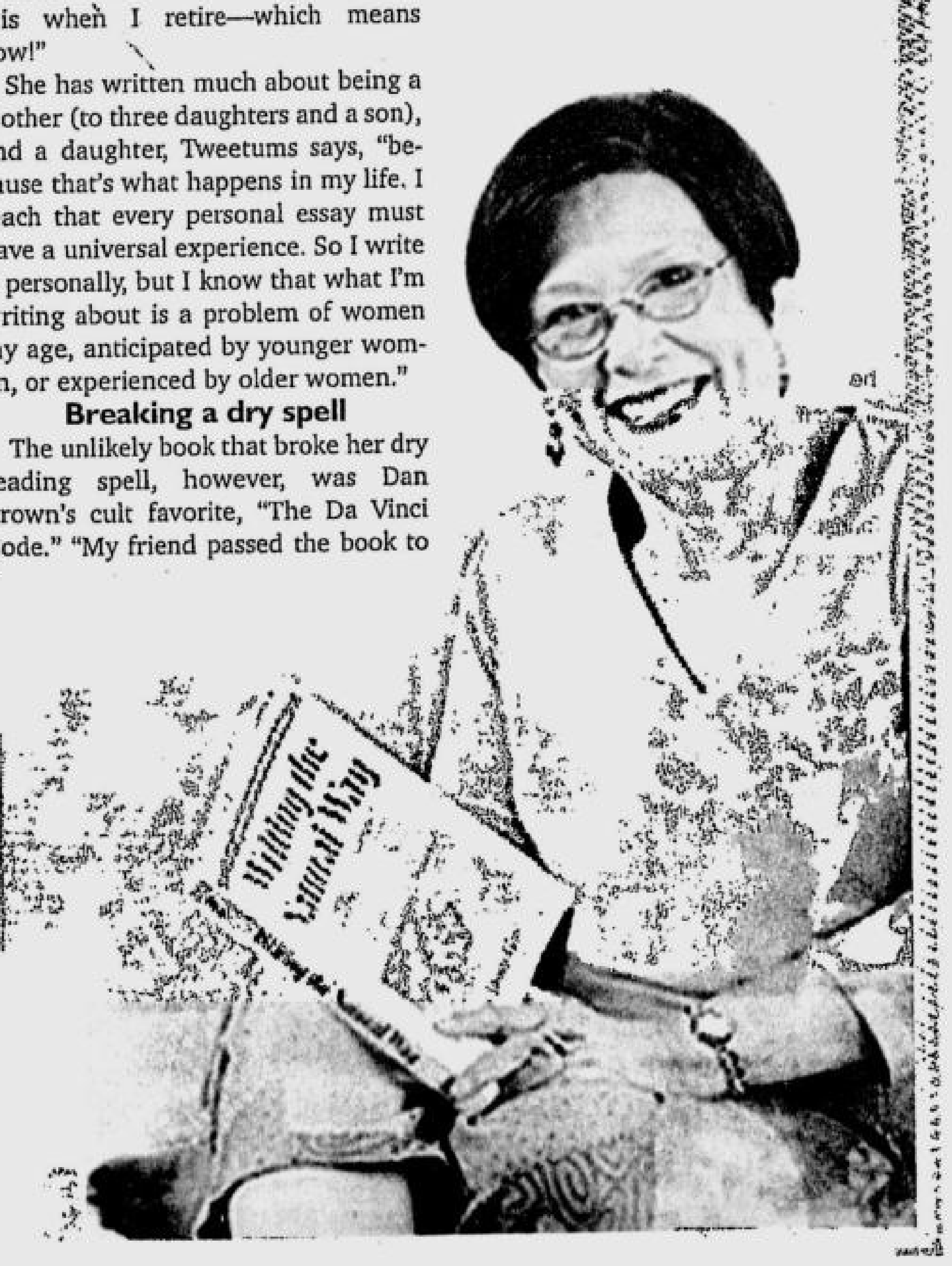
Breaking a dry spell

The unlikely book that broke her dry reading spell, however, was Dan Brown's cult favorite, "The Da Vinci Code." "My friend passed the book to me. I could read it, but couldn't remember much. It wasn't so good anyway, so now I'm reading 'Angels and Demons,' which is worse," Tweetums declares. "Hate *ko siya*. He's a lousy writer!"

But there have been books that she has enjoyed reading recently and remembers and, in her own words, are "*nakakainggit*"—they made her envious that these writers could weave words so well. There's "The Blue Shoe" by Anne Lamott, "which kind of resembles the kind of book I want to write, about being part of the sandwich generation, caught between my mother and my children. Maybe I'll call it 'Pastrami On Rye,' " Tweetums says with a laugh. There's also "The Weight of Water" by Anita Shreve and "By The River Piedra I Cried" by Paolo Coelho.

Tweetums also reads a lot of poetry now, because in her class, "people do write poetry, and it's very free," Tweetums says. "I don't teach iambic pentameter and I don't like haikus." What she hardly touches now are her books from her previous life, volumes on marketing, communications and advertising. "I had 32 years of that. Besides, the field is changing tremendously, but ownership still belongs to the big multinationals and the small agencies are still struggling, not knowing what to do, and refusing to accept that they have to change."

For now, pending any plans to fly off to Vancouver to spend more time with her sick mother and hopefully write a book, Tweetums is finding fulfillment in helping her students. "I have found that among them, there are those who write better and go on to write better, and there are those who don't write afterwards but change their lives, and do what they want and do it better." She dreams of publishing a book that will be a bestseller even in America. "I seem to write a book every seven years," Tweetums says. "The last one was in 1998, and it's now 2005, sooooo..." But one does get a hint of what the next one will read like. "I love novels, and a good one is one that fascinates me because of a good story. I think to write a novel, you have to be alone, maybe take two years off. You have to become the characters. How will you talk to yourself when you have to get dinner ready? It's not gonna work. So that's worth a thought—for now." Q



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Calls and Texts Across Asia

SMART Introduces AsiaConnect

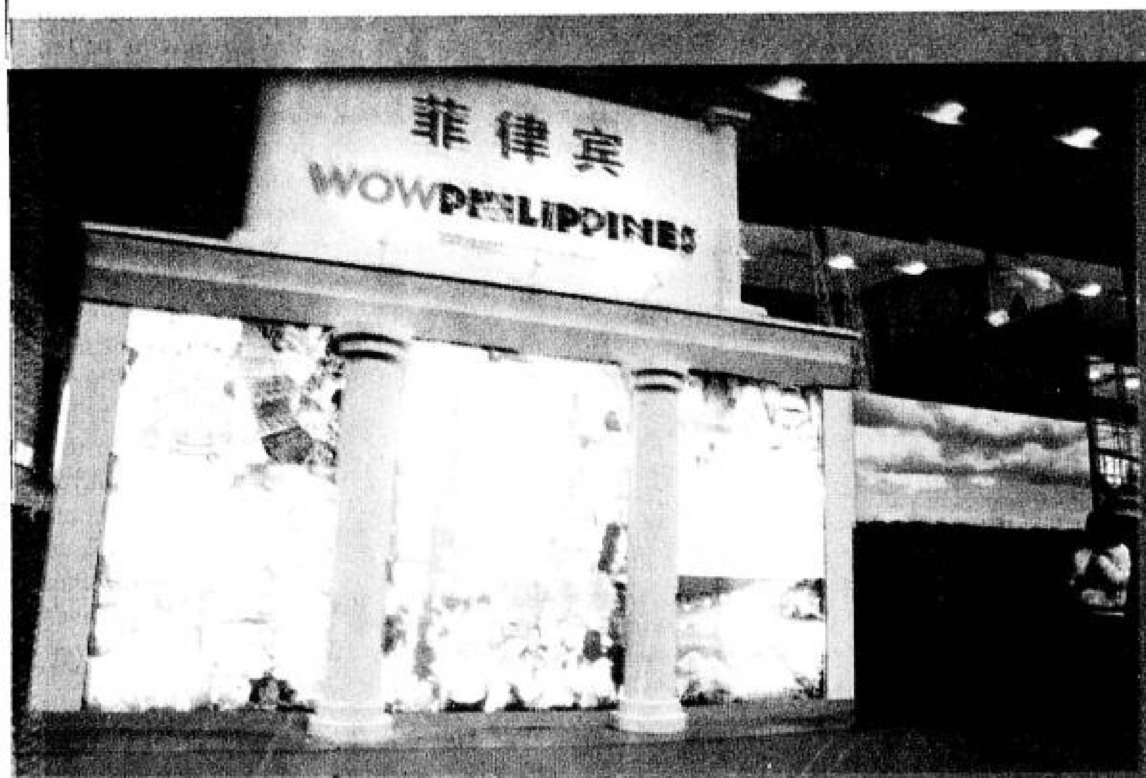
SMART
asiaconnect
DTAC
THAILAND
m1
SINGAPORE
SMART
Jennifer Rosales
Two-time LPGA Tour Champion

The world continues to shrink. No, there is no malevolent villain using a shrink ray on the Earth. It just often feels that way as communication has evolved in this new millennium. Advances in wireless have allowed us to stay in touch with friends and family abroad in almost every corner of the world. Now, SMART International Services announces a groundbreaking development that aims to change telecommunications across Southeast Asia.

Joining forces with MobileOne (M1) of Singapore and DTAC of Thailand, this trio of wireless giants now form one big name in wireless service – AsiaConnect. AsiaConnect lets you take more control of your roaming expenses because of a more transparent roaming flat rate of $1.25 calling to your home network when using SMART's AsiaConnect. And with 100 free roaming texts offered monthly, you can save approximately P1,000 everytime you travel to Thailand or Singapore.

For you SMART postpaid subscribers on the go, you can now manually select the AsiaConnect partner network available at your roaming destination. Whether you are vacationing in Phuket or on a business trip in Merlion Park, Singapore, make sure that you log on to DTAC or M1 to stay connected and enjoy the same quality of service you've come to love from SMART. Plus, you can even enjoy lower GPRS rates of $0.005 instead of the regular $0.01 per kilobyte when surfing via your SMART celfones.

No other union of telecommunication providers offers you amazing benefits like AsiaConnect does. This is only the beginning. SMART International Services continues to look for ways not just to improve their wireless service, but also for new partners and innovations that will make the world even smaller for you. It's a small world after all.



WOW-ing visitors in China

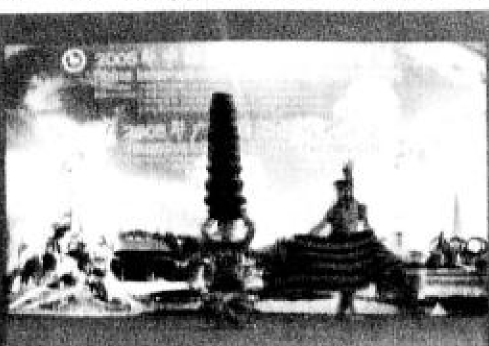
RP wins the Best Booth Award in Guangzhou Travel Fair

The Philippines continues to make waves in the international tourism arena. In the recently concluded Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) held in the Chinese province of Guandong, the country won the "Best Booth Award" for having the "best beach holiday concept".

SMART communications, Incorporated, the official Telecom partner of the Department of Tourism for the "I love Philippines! Byahe Na!" campaign, congratulates the Philippine delegation to Guandong for a job well done. SMART partnered with the DOT to boost local interest in tourism and spur international arrivals from the North American market. Launched last February 18 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, the "I Love Philippines, Byahe Na!" campaign led by Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano further strengthens the WOW Philippines project started by then Secretary Richard Gordon.

WOW Philippines is brought to different countries across the globe with a market specific sub-campaign. In China, "Wow Philippines! My Holiday Paradise" caught the attention of almost 115,000 travel professionals and guests who trooped to the Philippine pavilion throughout the four-day travel fair. This year's award is the tenth that the Philippines has received from internationally-acclaimed travel events in the last five years. It is a clear sign that the country will continue to WOW friends the world over with its creativity, warmth, and hospitality. SMART proudly supports the growth of the Philippine tourism industry, hoping that one day, every Filipino can proudly say "I Love (the) Philippines!"

WOWPHILIPPINES



I ♥ PHILIPPINES
BIYAHE NA!

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Get ready for the heat.
Here are remarkable reads
to fill up those long,
hot days ahead,
as reviewed by
the SIM staff

Lastikman
RICHARD N
PATTER
CONVIC
blin
Malcolm Gla
DU
BATTL
COR
LEXY NANCY
SEX
cookin
My Life as Emperor
SU TONG
HARUKI MURAKAMI

RUDY ESPERAS

Read ALERT

WHAT is it that drives us wanderers to crack open a book's body just as March marches to an end, to tear open that womb-like plastic wrapping and challenge a hardbound volume's immaculate spine? What is it that makes us long for the flapping sound of delicate pages in the warm afternoon breeze, the song of an imagined avian taking flight as we doze off in a welcome fit of daydreaming? It is the lure of drama in dialogue, consenting characters, of suspense, science fiction, real life and literary meandering, of hardcover heroes and paperback pathos. All hail the books, the siege engine of summer, an empire we welcome with open arms and eyes. It is reading as a religious experience. Let the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE invite you to this celebration of the written word as we present our picks in our annual Summer Reading Issue. Ruel S. De Vera

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS:

Fiction:

Be Cool *by Elmore Leonard*
Harper Torch

I've made a point of never starting an Elmore Leonard book after sundown, otherwise I'd be up all night reading. They're that hard to put down, once they get their hooks into you—generally around page 2. "Be Cool" is a sequel of sorts to "Get Shorty," which was made into a hit movie starring John Travolta. "Be Cool" continues the adventures of Chili Palmer, Leonard's lowlife hood turned would-be Hollywood player. Palmer's next movie project has gone bust, and he desperately needs a hit movie to stay afloat in the cutthroat business. But first he'll have to deal with mob hitmen and a detour into the even more cutthroat music business. "Be Cool" demonstrates why Leonard is the man when it comes to hard-boiled fiction. Every page jumps with his trademark crackling dialogue, quirky characters, unexpected plot twists and offbeat humor. Read the book even if you're planning to see the movie—it's worth it.

Eric S. Caruncho

Bergdorf Blondes
by Plum Sykes
Hyperion Books

This book may have been worth a laugh when it first came out, but now it's just plain tired. If you've ever read Vogue, where Sykes is a contributing editor on fashion, society and Hollywood (so does that give you an idea of how profound the subject matter is?), then you've read stuff like this before. It's about a fashion-crazy female who writes columns for a living and loves Blahniks, but believe me, "Sex and the City" was much wittier. Sykes tries to cutesify the already cutesy book with lists (Four Reasons to Leave England, Front Row Girls-The 101), but there's no real plot and no edge-of-your-seat ending—Bridget Jones with more money, but infinitely less charm. Only if you're really, really bored.

Alya B. Honasan

The Birth of Venus
by Sarah Dunant
Random House Trade Paperbacks

It's the history fan's perfect fictional read, with its spunky heroine, rich and sumptuous setting, and generous servings of art, conflict, sex (the heroine is devirginized by her homosexual husband, but later, as a nun, has sex inside a chapel with her painter-lover—whew) and historical trivia. Set in Florence of the Renaissance of the powerful Medicis and the zealot monk Girolamo Savonarola, the book is written with a light hand and an engaging style, and one can't wait to know what happens to the precocious Alessandra Cecchi and her fate in these turbulent times, when women had to know their place. The ending is sad, but somehow inevitable in the greater scheme of things. Highly recommended beach hammock reading. ***ABH***

Conviction
by Richard North Patterson
Macmillan

A disquieting and sobering look at the legal system and how it literally papers over the humanity of criminals bound for the death chamber, the easier to send them on their way. A missing Asian girl is found floating on the river, choked on cum, and two African-American brothers are identified by their elderly white neighbor. Racial politics, inept legal advice and a vengeful rival send the two to death row where 12 years later and days before their execution, a pro-bono lawyer finds one of the brothers innocent because of mental retardation. The legalese as the lawyers argue their way through the labyrinthine maze of judicial appeal tends to slow down the action, but the characters do ask provocative questions that keep the novel chugging along.

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Dune: The Battle of Corrin
by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson
Tor Books

The bloody prehistory of the desert planet Arrakis lives on in this, the latest prequel from originator Frank Herbert's successor in son Brian and veteran sci-fi scribe Anderson. Following the events in "Dune: The Machine Crusades," this chronicles the ongoing battle for freedom against the sentient machines. When terrible plagues are let loose upon the remaining human resistance, it is time to make an all-out stand on the planet of Corrin, a climactic battle that will lead to many of the developments that will define the epic of Dune. ***RSDV***

Freaky Green Eyes
by Joyce Carol Oates
HarperTempest

A fast read if a tad predictable. Echoes of OJ. Simpson and Nicole Smith's case, with an ending most of us would like to see. ***PAC***

Kafka on the Shore
by Haruki Murakami
Translated by Philip Gabriel
Alfred A. Knopf

The beguiling, sometimes downright bizarre, story stylings of Murakami are on full display in "Kafka on the Shore," where a Japanese lad named (what else) Kafka Tamura sets off with an old companion name Nakata, ostensibly for Kafka to outrun his odd destiny and to look for his missing loved ones. Either way, the two of them wind up meeting very strange people in very strange places as Murakami keeps the reader off balance with all sorts of narrative (there is that word again) oddities. ***RSDV***

My Life as Emperor
by Su Tong
Translated by Howard Goldblatt
Faber & Faber

Otherwise known as the author of the novel that became the acclaimed film "Raise The Red Lantern," Su Tong's "My Life As Emperor" features a self-explanatory title that belies its scope and ambition. When the narrator is crowned young Emperor of the Xie Empire at book's beginning, no one knows that his troubles are only starting as power-hungry sycophants, conspiracies and the machinations of his strange grandmother become discernible. Told in lovely translated prose, "My Life As Emperor" is an enjoyable tale of ugly politics and cruel history.

RSDV

Non-fiction:

Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking
by Malcolm Gladwell
Little, Brown & Company

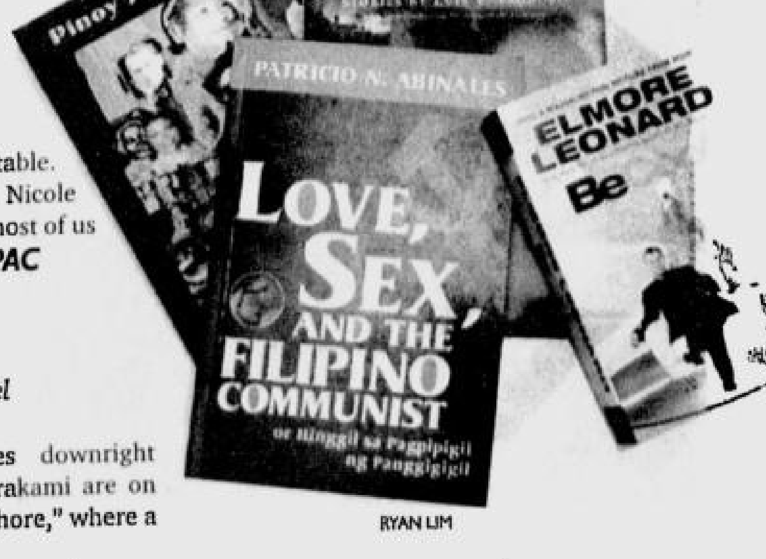
There are some writers simply gifted when it comes to accessibility, and Malcolm Gladwell, author of "The Tipping Point," is one of them. Now he brings his no-nonsense style to the concept of quick thinking or "thin-slicing" and its surprising applications. From business to romance, "Blink" tackles that split second of thinking without really thinking (and yet often being right on the money) with distinctive poise and poeticism. ***RSDV***

Brad & Jen: The Rise and Fall of Hollywood's Golden Couple
by Mara Reinstein and Joey Bartolomeo
Wenner Media

Amazing how the couple's brief announcement of their split in January this year could swell into a book in just two months. So let's see: how do you puff up such a measly kernel of news? Put in lots of colored celebrity shots, a listing of their bad hair moments plus side interests and causes (for Brad: stem cell research, AIDS and the John Kerry presidency). Throw in family history (Jen's mom once wrote a tell-all on her insecure daughter who ended up not speaking to her) and some bonus stories on how other Hollywood pairs met and messed up. Briefly, the book tells us, celebrity couples are expected to be perfect. If they're not, well, there's hell to pay. And a book to rush. ***PAC***

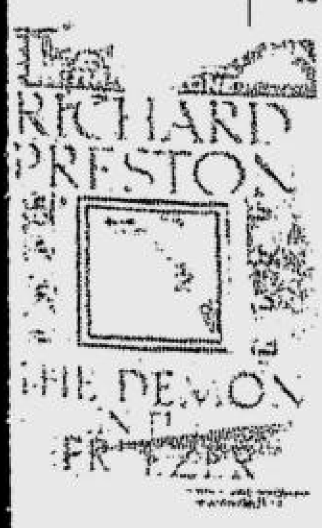
Cane River
by Lalita Tademy
Warner Books

The author, a former vice president of a



RYAN LIM

Fortune 500 company, decides to research her family tree and comes up with the amazing survival stories of four generations of her women forebears. This historical fiction tells of four Negro women who cope with slavery, sexual abuse, the loss of family members in the slave auction and the Civil War and its intoxicating promise of freedom, only to realize that it would take at least another four generations to reclaim what is due them. Elisabeth, Suzette, Philomene, and Emily might as well be today's OFWs who would sacrifice everything for their families, so familiar does this novel feel. **PAC**



The Success Principles: How To Get From Where You Are To Where You Want To Be *by Jack Canfield*

HarperCollins

MY BASIC beef with how-to books is that they spend so much time trying to break down your life, you end up not living it. And when I see pluggings for Success Tools and Success Strategies Courses (all trademarked, by the way), I'm outta there. The solution is not to swallow entire packages, but choose what works for you. This hefty book by one of the "Chicken Soup" series cowriters is full of cute cartoons and anecdotes that rein the reader in, but there are a lot of mantras we've already heard: Believe in yourself, transform your inner critic into your inner coach, etc. There are some good reinterpretations—Become an inverse paranoid (believe everything is working to your benefit), lean into it (all about momentum, or in Pinoyspeak, *buelo*). The advice to "Become conscious about your money" includes often-overlooked basics that would banish all personal debt problems if we just paid attention. By and large, though, nothing we haven't read somewhere else before. **ABH**

Choosing Joy, Creating Abundance *by Ellen Peterson*

Llewellyn Publications

Easy-to-read prescription on how to attract prosperity that's a comfortable mix of rituals and homespun advice. Briefly, counsels this book, abundance comes if: you believe that life is good, your needs will be met, you stay in the light and avoid dark distressing thoughts and words, maintain your integrity and commitment, keep your life in order, live in the moment, are always grateful, and envision our dreams. Examples and anecdotes as well as an interactive questionnaire keep the reader busy enough to ignore the hokey clichés that dot the pages. Alright, enough. Let's try to stay in the light here. **PAC**

freaky
green
eyes
Brad & Jen
CANE RIVER

RUDY ESPERAS

To page 6

Say Goodbye to Diaper Rash

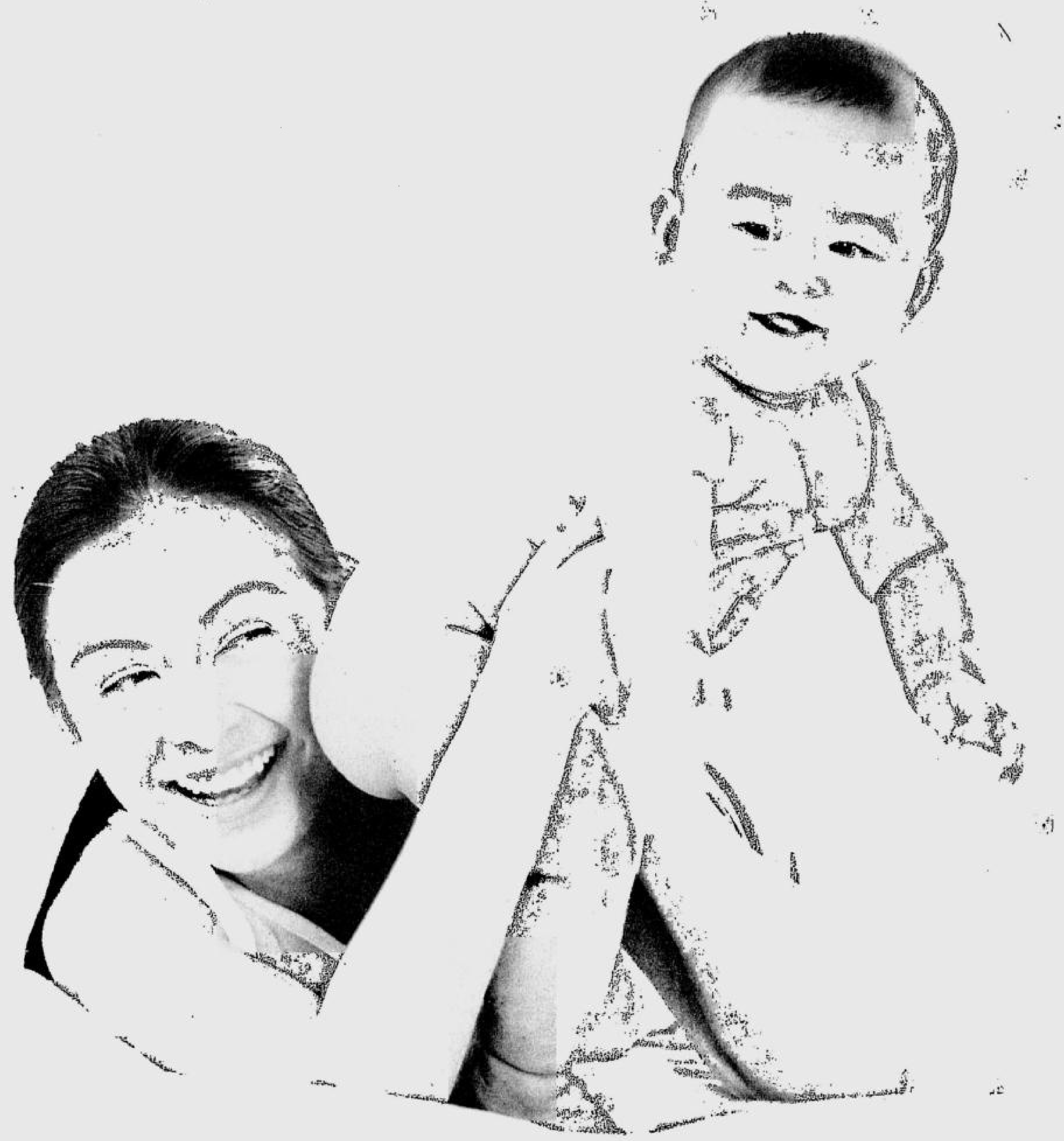
As most experienced mothers will tell you, diaper rash is one of the most common problems their newborns will encounter in the early years of childhood. Usually manifested through the reddening and inflammation of the skin in the butt area, diaper rash is, nonetheless, very preventable as long as mothers take the necessary steps:

1. Check baby's diaper throughout the day to make sure they're dry. Change them immediately at the first sign of wetness. This will prevent bacteria from baby's stool and urine from irritating his bottom.
2. Whenever you change baby's diaper, always make it a point to cleanse his/her bottom thoroughly before putting on a fresh pair.
3. Whenever possible, allow baby to go without diapers to let the air naturally dry his/her skin.
4. Finally, always use

Johnson's baby powder double protection

during every diaper change. Its unique zinc oxide formula works in two ways to help prevent diaper rash: (A) It repels wetness and, (B) It inhibits the growth of bacteria that can irritate baby's bottom. It's also Clinically Proven Mild so it's safe to use even on the most sensitive newborn skin.

Make it a point to follow these simple tips in caring for baby, and diaper rash- with all the pain and discomfort it brings- will surely be a thing of the past!



Cheek to Cheek

Johnson's baby powder double protection

Baby and you will love being this close, specially when his little bottom is rash-free.
So have Johnson's Baby Powder Double Protection handy. It has zinc oxide that protects him from wetness and rash. And keeps his little bottom comfortably dry, ready for snuggling this close.

Cool Books for Cool Kids

Here are some hand-picked reads to keep the kids enthralled this fun season

By Eline Santos

FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS:

"CHASING Vermeer" by Blue Baliett is a book of puzzle-bilities for clever readers eager to solve a mystery—kind of like a youthful version of the "Da Vinci Code" sans the controversy. Mysterious coincidences tie up frogs, pentominoes, and a Johannes Vermeer painting, which also bring 11-year-olds Petra Andalee and Calder Pillay into an unexpected friendship. Using their intuition and intelligence, they gather clues to help solve a much publicized art theft that's left even the FBI in the dark. The illustrations by Brett Heliquest (illustrator of Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events") are an innovative bonus as the art contains a challenge for the puzzle-lovin' reader. P:1 I:2 X:1 L:2 F:3! (Translation? Enjoy!)

"Tale of the Toa" by C.A. Hapka is the first book in the Bionicle Chronicles, a series based on Lego characters. The story tells of how the awaited heroes of legend—the six Toa of fire, ice, stone, water, air, and earth—find themselves on the island of Mata Nui with only the memory of their name. Tahu, Kopaka, Pohatu, Gali, Lewa and Onua must learn to set aside their differences in order to stand against the darkness of Makuta, and someday save the great spirit Mata Nui from a spell of eternal slumber. The plot feels a bit crammed as the story tries to establish the world of the Toa in the midst of all the mask-finding action going on. Still, it might just be the key to unlock the joys of the written word for Lego-obsessed kids.

"Raven's Secret" by J. Torres is part of the Teen Titans series, whose characters are based on the cartoon of the same title. Raven, the mysterious member of the Teen Titans, accidentally collides with a villain named Jinx as the latter is trying to get away from the rest of the titanic team. As a result of the collision, Raven's fairy tale book comes to life. Now she has to save three "princes" in the mixed up world while teammate Starfire collects the scattered pages of the book to get everything back to normal.

"Lost in Darkness," of the Duel Masters series, is an adaptation by Michael Anthony Steele from the Duel Masters cartoon. Shobu Kirifuda takes the Duel Masters card game very seriously as he wants to be a great Kaijudo master like his father. On the day Shobu is supposed to duel with Toru, a mysterious stranger defeats Toru so bad, he no longer wishes to play cards. Now Shobu has to face Kyoshiro Kokujo and his formidable Darkness cards. If you've watched the episodes on which the book is based, TV images will flash back as you read on. Some bookworms may hunger for a more rigorous workout for their imagination, but fans of Duel Masters will be glad that the book has closure vis-a-vis a two-part episode on TV.

"Ghost Class" is the first book in the Ghostville Elementary series by Marcia Thornton Jones and Debbie Dadey, authors of "The Bailey School Kids." Lack of classrooms at Sleepy Hollow Elementary School forces one section of third-graders to use the basement which is rumored to be haunted. Cassidy, Nina, and Jeff find the rumors to be true as they get into trouble courtesy of Ozzy the ghost. A good chapter book for budding bookworms, it's not too scary and can build confidence in one's ability to finish long books. Since "Ghost Class" is basically an introduction to the series, you may want the succeeding books soon after for more action.

All foreign titles available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks

PHILIPPINE PUBLICATIONS:

"Papa's House, Mama's House" by Jean Lee Patindol was last year's winner of the PBBY Salanga Writers' Prize. A young narrator tells how he and his siblings live half the week at Mama's house and half the week in Papa's House. He describes what it's like in both houses, how he sometimes gets confused, and his Mama's explanation on why she and Papa cannot live together anymore. The simplicity of the words contrast beautifully with the complexity of its subject. The language can be understood by readers as young as six, but it's a must-have for lovers of Philippine children's literature of all ages.

I Don't Like to Eat!
BIONICLE
CHASING VERMEER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY RYAN LIM

Hipon and Biya

Creative twists and magical plots translate into enjoyable reading experiences

Mister Beetle finds a nice young sapling and takes residence in its five leaves. He posts a sign that reads, "This house of five rooms belongs to Mister Beetle. No trespassing please." But then the tree is growing new leaves. A cricket decides to take up residence in the growing tree condo, followed by a bumblebee, a firefly, a spider, two caterpillars, one praying mantis, a ladybug and a fly. Will the growing population push Mister Beetle to leave his cozy home? Written and illustrated by Robert Magnuson, **"Mister Beetle's Many Rooms"** is a good book for budding nature-lovers.

What if your preschooler already likes turning the pages but doesn't know how to read yet? **"I Don't Like To Eat"** is a wordless picture book perfect for preschoolers. Conceptualized by Excel Dyquiangco, parents and kids can have a good storytelling session by interpreting the story from the pictures by Marcus Nada. The straightforward version: it's about a junk-food addict who encounters a tummy monster that grows stronger with every unhealthy chip. But then again, your version can be as creative as you like.

"Hipon and Biya" by Carla Pacis is the story of friendship between Hipon and Biya. They have a good partnership: Hipon keeps the burrow clean and provides food for Biya while Biya guards short-sighted Hipon from big fish hunting for a meal. One day, Hipon gets fed up with the arrangement and nags Biya so much that Biya goes away. Can either one survive alone in the dangerous sea?

Get to know some of the stories your grandparents loved by picking up a book from Anvil Publishing's series, "Ang Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang ni Severino Reyes." Retold by Christine Bellen, **"Rosamistica"** is a story of an orphaned girl treated as slave labor at the house of her Uncle Senado and Aunt Tomasa. Unwilling to have her around on Christmas day, Rosamistica is sent out with a 25 centavo coin. The young girl wanders around the church and fair grounds, clutching her meager treasure and debating whether she should buy much needed food or a much longed for doll. In the end, she gives up her coin to help a beggar woman and her child. Her rewards are mystical indeed.

A greedy rajah got it into his head that he wanted the whitest of clouds to add to his collection of fattest cows, roundest pigs, juiciest melons, finest silk, and purest silver and gold. On the advice of his counselors, the biggest and most magnificent kite was made for the rajah, who was flattered into thinking himself the purest of men who can fly to the heavens to acquire the clouds. In his greed, he adorns the kite with the finest emeralds, rubies, diamonds and pearls. When the kite is ready, he goes off. Closing in on the clouds, the kite is hindered by the weight of the jewels. Enraged, the rajah cuts off the jewels in a blind fury, and the treasure falls to the people who rejoice at the bounty. **"The Greediest of Rajahs and the Whitest of Clouds"** by Honoel Ibardolaza won first prize in the 2003 Palanca Awards.

"Filemon Mamon," written by Christine Bellen and illustrated by Jason Moss, is the story of a boy who loves to eat. Aside from chicharon, adobo, and lechong paksiw, Filemon also loves the theater. His size however keeps him from playing the lead roles in plays except when he takes on the role of Santa Claus every December. A chance to play Andres Bonifacio comes his way but Filemon finds that he gets tired very easily and he is instead recast into the role of the mean, fat friar. Will Filemon ever get his chance in the limelight? Q

All Philippine titles available at leading bookstores

Read

...from page 4

The Demon in The Freezer
by Richard Preston
Ballantine Books

As elegant as it is terrifying, Preston's ("The Hot Zone") stunning portrait of smallpox is beautiful and exhaustive. It not only looks into how it is possible, but also if it is at all ethical, to eradicate a virus (thought of by some sectors as living things) that is considered the most horrible of human diseases. While it may not exactly put your mind to rest while on summer vacation, this is gripping non-fiction at its best, provoking serious thoughts about scientific research and biological warfare in a post-911 world. ***RSDC***

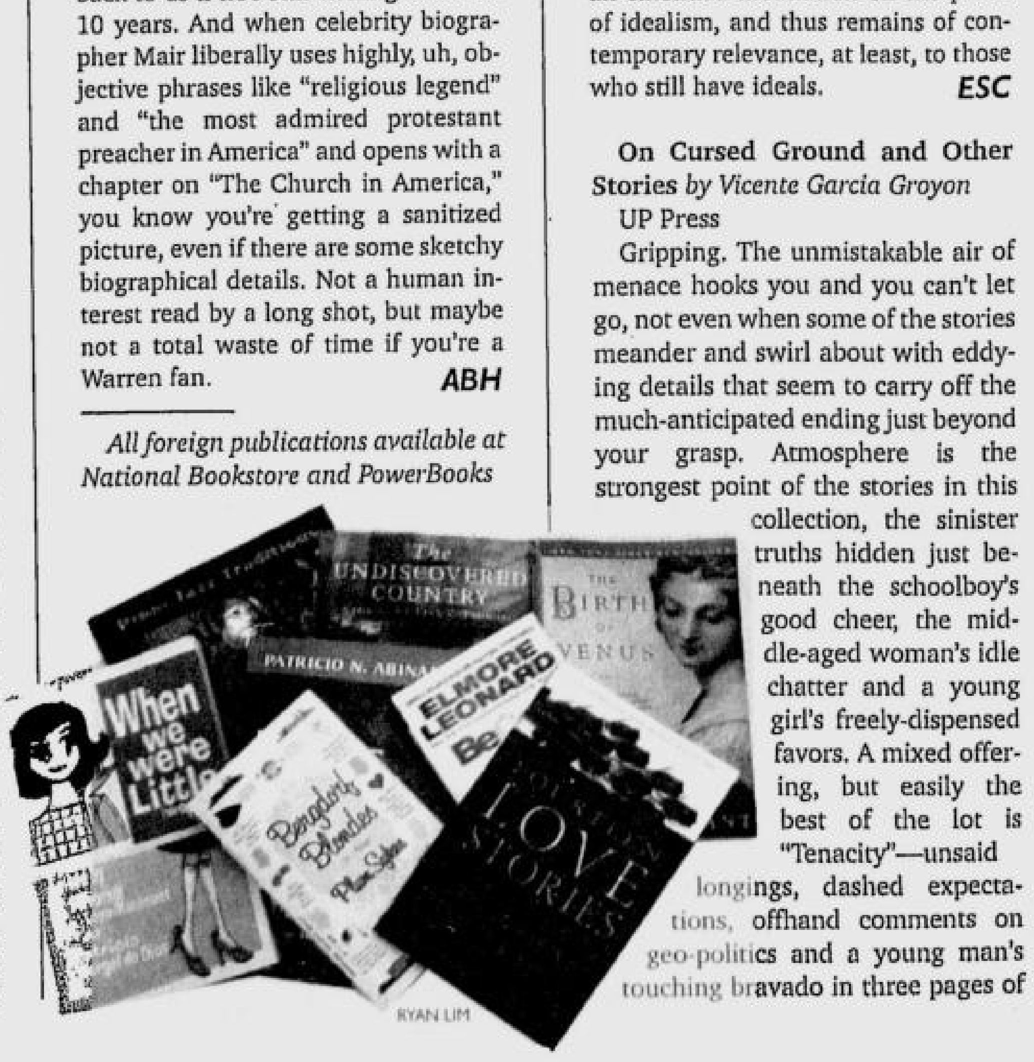
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis
by Ellen Ladowsky
Balliett & Fitzgerald

A refreshing take on the former US First Lady without the gushy breathlessness and gleeful mischief of most fanzine and tabloid stories. Even the choice of photographs show good taste and restraint while the historical facts are stated plainly with no embellishments nor speculations, but with enough details to recreate the era. For instance, to describe the world outcry and Jackie's fall from grace when she married Greek shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, the author describes the billionaire through his cruise ship Christina—which had bar stools made from whale scrotum and naked little girls on the wallpaper of the dining room. At the same time, JFK's widow was not spared her pretensions to high society and her bouts of social engineering as she reinvented her husband's public image while privately coping with his philandering and the political ambitions of her overreaching in-laws. Engrossing, unflinching, hugely entertaining without making one feel like an unrepentant voyeur. ***PAC***

A Life With Purpose: Reverend Rick Warren—The Most Inspiring Pastor Of Our Time *by George Mair*
Berkley Books

You will naturally pick up this one if, like many people, you have been touched by Rick Warren's best-selling book "A Purpose-Driven Life." Be warned, however: This is not a biography, as it claims to be, but an all-out, accolade-stuffed, glowing PR campaign. You might have gotten the hint from the subtitle, which shunts aside generations of earlier spiritual leaders. Warren hasn't paid enough dues, we think, as more enduring, charismatic predecessors like Billy Graham. Get back to us if he's still writing books in 10 years. And when celebrity biographer Mair liberally uses highly, uh, objective phrases like "religious legend" and "the most admired protestant preacher in America" and opens with a chapter on "The Church in America," you know you're getting a sanitized picture, even if there are some sketchy biographical details. Not a human interest read by a long shot, but maybe not a total waste of time if you're a Warren fan. ***ABH***

All foreign publications available at National Bookstore and PowerBooks



RYAN LIM

PHILIPPINE PUBLICATIONS:

Fiction:

The Undiscovered Country: Stories *by Luis V. Teodoro*
University of the Philippines Press

Many of Teodoro's characters are college professors in the late 1960s and early 1970s who feel conflicted between their ideals and material success, and frustrated that their ideals don't go further than the level of academic theory. A professor of journalism and political columnist, Teodoro 's prose is spare and surgically precise, with hints of a sly humor. More than interesting period pieces, his fiction is an extended meditation on the perils of idealism, and thus remains of contemporary relevance, at least, to those who still have ideals. ***ESC***

On Cursed Ground and Other Stories *by Vicente Garcia Groyon*
UP Press

Gripping. The unmistakable air of menace hooks you and you can't let go, not even when some of the stories meander and swirl about with eddying details that seem to carry off the much-anticipated ending just beyond your grasp. Atmosphere is the strongest point of the stories in this collection, the sinister truths hidden just beneath the schoolboy's good cheer, the middle-aged woman's idle chatter and a young girl's freely-dispensed favors. A mixed offering, but easily the best of the lot is "Tenacity"—unsaid longings, dashed expectations, offhand comments on geo-politics and a young man's touching bravado in three pages of tight well-rounded prose. ***PAC***

Fourteen Love Stories
Edited by Jose Dalisay Jr. and Angelo R. Lacuesta
UP Press

TWO words: pure delight. Even if you're no romantic, poor you, this book will move you because of the sheer genius of the writers and the brilliant choices of the editors (two of the country's best storytellers, we think). Styles range from the polite, elegant manner of Paz Marquez Benitez's "Dead Stars," where love is never expressed in polite conversation but felt and painfully missed, to Socorro Villanueva's succinct memory of a brief but passionate corporate affair in "How Could You Smile?" There's the variation in gravity, from the gray despair of Amador Daguio's "Wedding Dance," where love must bow to tradition and social pressure, to the light-heartedness of Gilda Cordero Fernando's "The Dust Monster," where a fantasy creature in a closet changes a woman, and just about saves her marriage. It's your humongous loss if you miss this gem of a compilation. ***ABH***

HARUKI MURAKAMI

My Life as EMPEROR
SU TONG

Non-fiction:

A Bone, Joint and Muscle Handbook *by Dr. Jose S. Pujalte Jr.*
Anvil Publishing, Inc.

ALTHOUGH in no way comprehensive if you're already well-

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Read

...from page 6

versed in osteoarthritis or bone cancer, this is nonetheless a very handy book to have around to understand what could really go wrong with your bones. Divided according to body parts (hand and wrist, shoulder and elbow, spine), the book is an easy read, thanks to basic illustrations (including easy-to-understand guides to range-of-motion exercises and the right posture) and, believe it or not, lines from literature introducing every chapter. Pujalte also touches on common complaints like texter's thumb, tennis elbow and dinner fork wrist. A chapter on Battered-Child Syndrome seems strangely out of place, but no harm in reading that, too. **ABH**

cooking lessons
beth romualdez

Constructing the Filipina: A History of Women's Magazines (1891-2002) *by Georgina Reyes Encanto*
UP Press

How have women's magazines evolved from El Bello Sexo during the Spanish times to the glossies of today? Well, not much. The only publications allowed without censorship during martial law, women's magazines then and now employ the usual formula: the ruling class as arbiters of taste, the articles as wish fulfillment and the ads as guides to frenzied consumption. The only difference, the book tells us, is that today's more expensive glossies make for better print ads and have bolder and more sexually explicit stories. Very academic reading, with a sprinkling of interesting trivia: the first advertisement for a breast enhancement ointment appeared in 1954 and Mr. & Ms. published a nude centerfold of a young Christopher de Leon in 1974. **PAC**

Cooking Lessons
by Beth Romualdez
Anvil Publishing

If I were newly married and wanted to impress the in-laws with my culinary skills, this is the cookbook I'd sneak in under my Teflon pans. Not only are the dishes impressive and wide-ranging (from Mediterranean to continental to Asian to Filipino), they are also a hearty mix of traditional and adventurous recipes with preparations simplified into five basic steps or less. There are also "Cooking Lessons" or handy tips to ensure a fool-proof dish based on the author's experiences as a cooking teacher for a gourmet school. How can you miss? Already, I'm looking at the recipes for Spanish tortilla, devilled grilled chicken, banana heart and pomelo salad, calamansi pie, herb pancakes, and crispy catfish salad as must-trys very soon. **PAC**

When We Were Little (Women)
Edited by Rhona Lopez-Macasaet and Patricia Vergel de Dios
Anvil Publishing

AN ideal book to give to young girls on the verge of womanhood, especially young girls who want to write and are stocking up on summer reading. This charming compilation of childhood memories is rich with tales of childhood games, favorite playmates and remembered rituals, such as in "Dumplings and Noodles," Xin Mei's detailed account of her first trip back to the land of her roots and her encounters with the culture that is part of what she is. And then there are the rites of passage, especially that realization that's as painful as it is thrilling—the fact that your are growing up, things change, and cherished companions must move on. It's the feeling you get in Rhona Lopez-Macasaet's "Ghosts," and Grechen Ocampo-Recto's "Puff," where the loss is echoed in the song about the magic dragon that loses its power when its playmate stops visiting. With this anthology, memories good and bad are thankfully never lost, and can always be revisited. **ABH**

Kulturang Mall
by Roland Tolentino
Anvil Publishing

Very insightful. How do malls shape our values and shopping habits? Why has malling become today's favorite and most accessible leisure? How have malls replaced the town plaza? How can product display be so anti-labor? What politics lie in a mall's layout and use of space? Written in academic Filipino, this small book makes for a difficult read, were it not for the amusing poems by German Gervacio that reduce the malling experience into an Everyman's Kafkaesque encounter. **PAC**

Looking for Jose Rizal in Madrid: Journeys, Latitudes, Perspectives, Destinations
by Gregorio C. Brillantes
UP Press

The venerable fictionist and essayist gathers his exquisite travel writing in one delectable package. "Looking for Rizal in Madrid" acts as both showcase and suitcase, from Quiapo to Acapulco, from Madrid to Managua, with the sights coming across in incandescent detail. The 27 essays in this book transcend decades and distance as only Brillantes can do it. If summer is a time spent traveling, then this is first-class armchair travel, from a first-class writer. **RSDV**

Love, Sex and the Filipino Communist *by Patricio N. Abinales*
Anvil Publishing

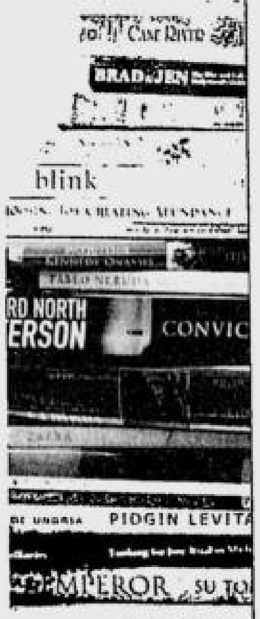
If you've ever wondered about the sex lives of underground revolutionaries—get a life. Better yet, get this book, which the author naughtily subtitles *"Hinggil sa Pagpipigil ng Panggigigil."* This well-researched and compulsively readable volume describes the efforts of the Communist Party of the Philippines to regulate its cadres' lower organs in the service of the revolution, and the resultant social, political and sexual fallout. In 1977, Jose Ma. Sison released "On the Relation of the Sexes," the party document outlining its official doctrine on relationships and sexuality. Its hidebound, patriarchal views on sexuality, women's reproductive rights and family relations has predictably led to much debate and dissension within the ranks that continue to this day, even as the party strives to update its image by, for instance, officially sanctioning same-sex unions. **ESC**

Pablo Neruda: Mga Piling Tula
Edited by Virgilio S. Almario, Romulo P. Baquiran, Jr.
UP Press

We might never get a chance to read Pablo Neruda's poetry in its original Spanish, but here at last is a chance to experience this Chilean poet in his full-bodied rage and passion. Reading his words in Filipino--the language we use for matters of the heart as contrasted to English, our language for business--it is easy enough to appreciate the earthy candor of his love poems, the wit and whimsy in his odes to just about everything from onions and oregano to bicycles and tuna, and his undaunted patriotism suffused with a sense of loss. Some of the best translations: "Oda sa Kamatis" (Almario), "Awit ng Pag-ibig XX (Tonight I shall write the saddest words/ Almario), "Isang Aso ang Namatay" (Rillo). **PAC**

Pidgin Levitations: Poetic Chromatexts *by Ricardo M. de Ungria*
UP Press

A rousing book that challenges conventional ideas regarding poetry and art, "Pidgin Levitations" is a collection that combines wordsmithing with visual art, something that de Ungria has long experimented on and excelled in. In form and in function, in verse and in multiverse, de Ungria, one of our best poets, period, throws the reader's world out of whack with all the chromatexts in his collection, a Willy Wonka-esque trip through writing and design in what must be one of the most elaborate, brain-teasing books ever produced. **RSDV**



RUDY ESPERAS

From novels to anthologies, histories and poetry, here are enough reads to suit every kind of bookworm

P150
MARS RAVELO'S
Lastikman
ALANGUILAN · ARRE · TADEO

Pinoy Jazz Traditions
by Richie C. Quirino
Anvil Publishing

This book is less a linear "history" of the early years of jazz in the Philippines than an extended riff on the subject—not surprising since the author is himself a jazz drummer and a participant in the music's evolution. Drawing on interviews with pioneering Filipino jazz musicians—many of whom have since gone on to that great jam session in the beyond—Quirino recreates the era when Manila swung to the big band sounds of the Shanghai Swingmasters, the Pete Aristorenas Band and Tirso Cruz's Mabuhay Orchestra. Since few recordings from this era have survived, "Pinoy Jazz Traditions" is the next best thing to having been there. **ESC**

Survival Cooking: Fast & Filling Recipes from the Can to the Pan
by Maya Kitchen
Anvil Publishing

The title says it all. Don't expect gourmet or fine dining recipes, but basic meals from canned veggies and instant mixes (i.e. corned beef macaroni soup, squid balls in teriyaki sauce, four seasons pizza). Quick, convenient and high sodium. Aside from the easy recipes, there are substitution and conversion tables, helpful hints and food trivia that make for an interesting read while you're waiting for the soup to boil. Like: did you know that Salisbury steak was invented for soldiers of the US Civil War? **PAC**

Twisted 7
by Jessica Zafra
Anvil Publishing

If you were to own just one "Twisted" volume among the six from iconoclast Zafra, then this one is it. Strapping together the best of her selected work, Zafra is presented here in her acerbic essence. See pop culture distilled and skewered! See the world as we know dissected and experimented on! More than just intelligent and funny takes on everyday life, "Twisted 7" is a testament to the ironic, often ridiculous and sometimes sublime world we live in, an exercise in smirking world domination from the oft-imitated yet still vintage Jessica Zafra. **RSDV**

Ynang Maria: A Celebration of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Philippines *by MaryAnne Barcelona and Consuelo B. Estepa, Ph.D*
Anvil Manila

ALTHOUGH obviously a staunchly Catholic book written as "an offering of love" by devotees of the Virgin Mary, this turns out to be an interesting read, documenting several of the incarnations of Mama Mary known to Filipinos. The book is organized, informative and not as gushy as one would expect a love offering to be; the authors honor God's mother with an invaluable reference for the faithful as well as students of religion, both Catholic and folk. The stories behind each unique image, from Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal to Our Lady of the Barangays, from Manaoag to Montserrat, are full of I-didn't-know-that revelations. It would have been a prettier book if the cover wasn't so dark and blurry and the photographs distributed over the pages, but well, divine work can't always afford to look sleek. Perfect for your favorite Marian devotee. **ABH**

Comic Books:

Cast # 4
by Jamie Bautista, Elbert T. Or and Ronin Core
Nautilus Comics

A winsome coming-of-age tale that juxtaposes a bunch of teenagers' everyday struggles against the backdrop of a theatrical staging of King Arthur's adventures, "Cast" is honest and sweet in its dissection of high school highs and lows, now on its fourth issue plus a prequel. While there are some stereotypes among the, uh, cast as well as some confusing character designs, the continuing main plot and the attached side stories provide a jolt of familiarity and freshness. One can't help but be hooked by the "will-they-or-won't-they" element of "Cast." Core's manga-style art is great for the material, and the writing is achingly delightful, making "Cast" good for readers of any age, and perfect for teenagers. **RSDV**

Lexy, Nance & Argus: Sex, Gods, Rock & Roll
by Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Bittersweet Comix

Unlike anything else out there, "Lexy, Nance & Argus," which first ran in Pulp Magazine, features the very graphic (read: nudity and very sexual situations) adventure of three friends: the gay Lexy, lesbian Nance and the seemingly straight Argus. This book is not for the undaventurous. A visually elaborate chronicle of Generation X's alternative tribe, the compiled black and white strip is gimmicky and sentimental in parts but is certainly unambiguous in its storytelling. An acquired taste that brims with catchy dialogue, "Lexy, Nance & Argus" is also strictly for adult readers only—a distinction that should be taken seriously. **RSDV**

Mars Ravelo's Lastikman
by Gerry Alanguilan, Arnold Arre and Edgar Tadeo
Mango Comics

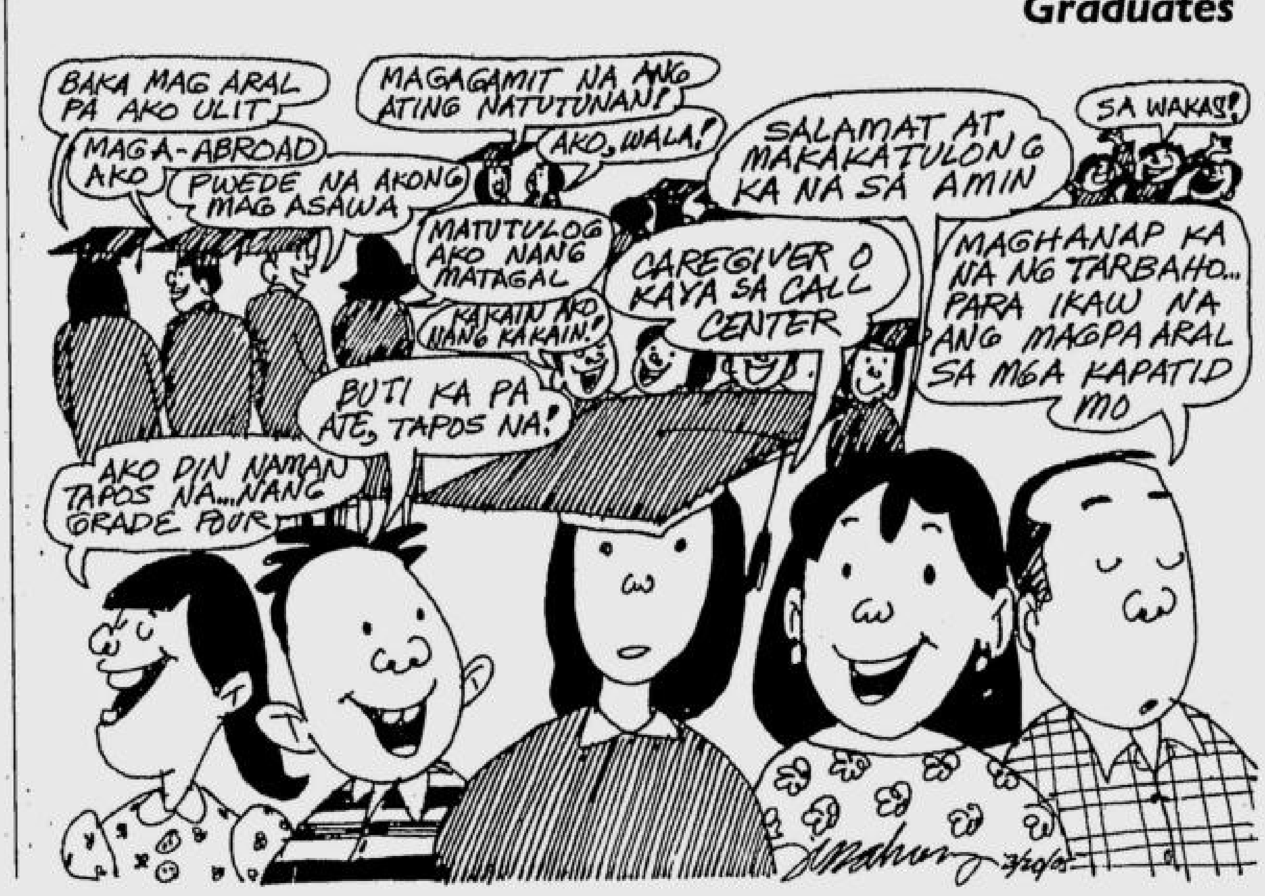
Perhaps the most solid take on the Pinoy superhero written large, "Lastikman" combines some of our brightest creators in a lavishly-produced one-shot that is at once homage and expansion. A self-contained story, this full-color adventure chronicles the stretchable hero's life-saving exploits and delves into his past even as a dynamic new character is introduced amid a cosmos-spanning vendetta. With its sparkplug dialogue and turbocharged visuals, "Lastikman" is classic and yet very modern comic-book fun from great talent, fantastic for more than just stretches. **RSDV**

All Philippine publications available at leading bookstores

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Graduates


BAKA MAG ARAL PA AKO ULIT
MAGA-ABROAD AKO
PWEDE NA AKONG MAG ASAWA
MAGAGAMIT NA ANG ATING NATUTUNAN!
AKO, WALA!
MATUTULOG AKO NANG MATAGAL
KAKAIN AKO NANG KAKAIN!
SALAMAT AT MAKAKATULONG KA NA SA AMIN
SA WAKAS!
CAREGIVER O KAYA SA CALL CENTER
MAGHANAP KA NA NG TARBAHO... PARA IKAW NA ANG MAGPA ARAL SA MGA KAPATID MO
BUTI KA PA ATE, TAPOS NA!
AKO DIN NAMAN TAPOS NA...NANG GRADE FOUR

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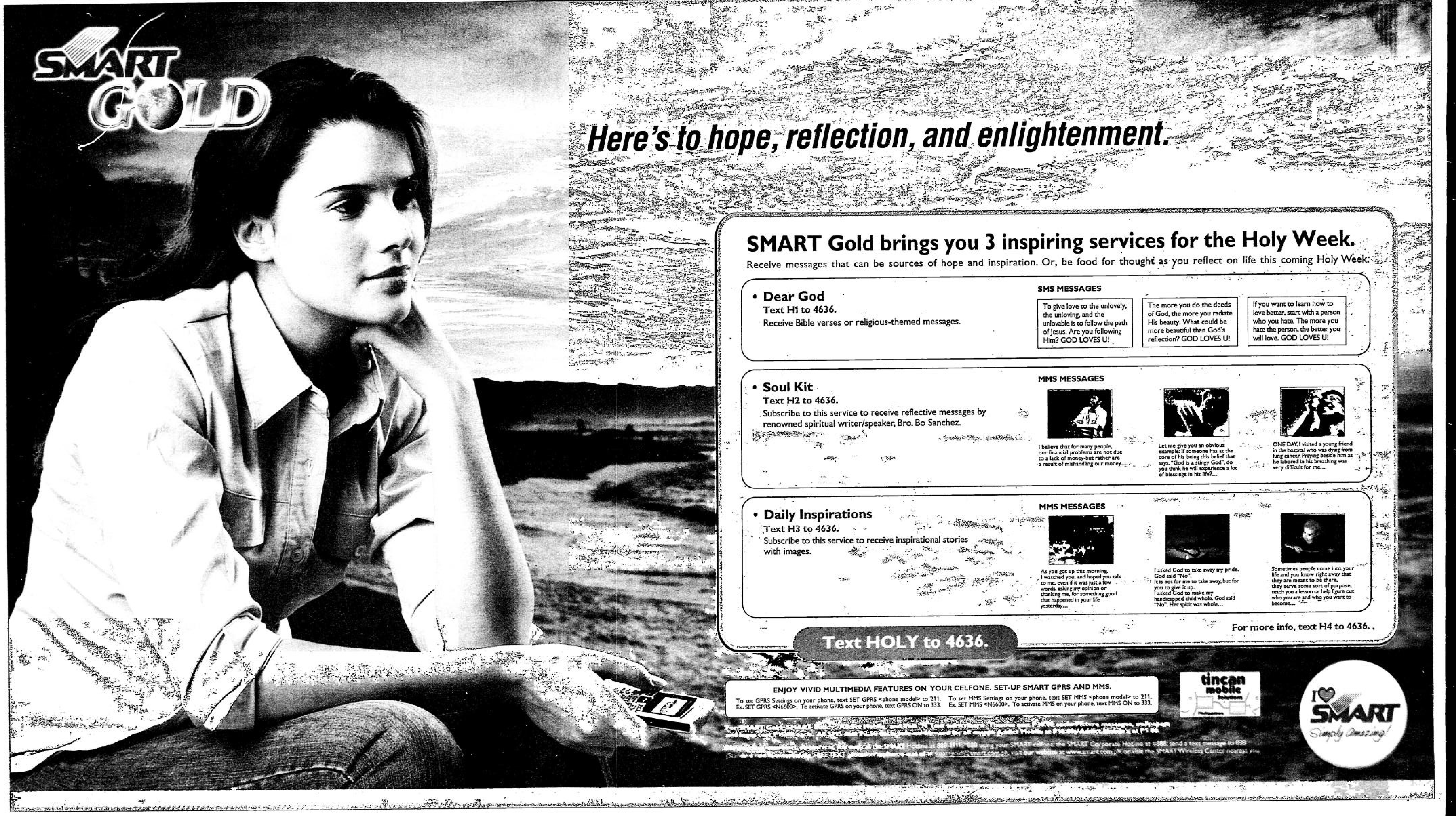

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The more you do the deeds of God, the more you radiate His beauty. What could be more beautiful than God's reflection? GOD LOVES U!

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MMS MESSAGES

I believe that for many people, our financial problems are not due to a lack of money-but rather are a result of mishandling our money...

Let me give you an obvious example: If someone has at the core of his being this belief that says, "God is a stingy God", do you think he will experience a lot of blessings in his life?...

ONE DAY, I visited a young friend in the hospital who was dying from lung cancer. Praying beside him as he labored in his breathing was very difficult for me...

- **Daily Inspirations**
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MMS MESSAGES

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me, for something good that happened in your life yesterday...

I asked God to take away my pride. God said "No". It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up. I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said "No". Her spirit was whole...

Sometimes people come into your life and you know right away that they are meant to be there, they serve some sort of purpose; teach you a lesson or help figure out who you are and who you want to become...

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